Saturday, June 20, 2026 No 170 ₹8

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Meloni slams Trump for photo remark

P12

DKS eyes scheme blitz, infra push to shape tenure

CMO team working to prepare vision document

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is preparing a raft of new schemes across sectors, including urban and rural infrastructure, as he seeks to set the tone for his administration ahead of the next Assembly polls less than two years away.

About 25-30 new schemes are being planned, which may cost the exchequer anywhere between Rs 10,000 crore and Rs 20,000 crore, sources close to Shivakumar said. The new schemes may be announced in one go or after every Cabinet meeting.

Shivakumar has already announced six new schemes after taking charge as the CM: free bus travel for male students, a government-run employment exchange for private sector jobs, a Rs 2,000-crore grant for road works in Bengaluru, exemption for buildings measuring up to 2,500 sq ft from obtaining occupancy certificates (OC), extension of 'B' to 'A' khata conversion across the state and creation of 10,000 Bharat Jodo Youth Clubs.

Shivakumar has chosen not to present an interim budget.

Instead, a team in the chief minister's office (CMO) is working overtime to prepare a vision document to showcase what Shivakumar wants to do during his tenure.

Shivakumar wants to focus on education, healthcare, infrastructure and agriculture, the sources said.

To woo urban voters outside Bengaluru, the CM is planning a new infrastructure development programme.

"The last time we had a programme for towns and cities, excluding Bengaluru, was Nagarotthana. A similar scheme will be launched," an officer said.

It is also learnt that Shivakumar is planning a new rural road development programme.

▸ DKS, Page 5B

Tone for tenure

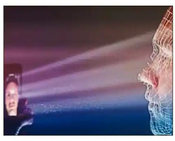
- **25-30 new schemes** being planned
- Likely to cost **Rs 10,000 cr -Rs 20,000 cr**
- **Focus on education,** healthcare, infra and agriculture
- **New infra programme** for cities outside Bengaluru
- **New rural road** development programme
- Doubling down on **'Karnataka Public Schools'** brand
- **New Agritech Mission** aimed at helping farmers with digital interventions
- **Protein Mission** aimed at poultry sector

Gruha Lakshmi: CAG flags irregularities

Thousands of payments under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme were made despite missing bank account details of beneficiaries, the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) has found.

Details on Page 3

Quickly



BDA for facial recognition entry at HQ

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is planning to introduce a facial recognition-based entry system at its headquarters to curb the activities of middlemen operating on the premises. The proposal is currently at a conceptual stage.

Details on Page 2

UK's Starmer faces fresh challenge

Labour's Andy Burnham (in picture), the mayor of Greater Manchester, has won a special election for a seat in Parliament, putting him in a position to challenge Prime Minister Keir Starmer for UK's leadership. Burnham decisively won from Makerfield.

Details on Page 12

CID inspector arrested for role in Rs 20L robbery of Kerala businessmen

BENGALURU, DHNS

A police inspector attached to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was arrested on Friday for his alleged involvement in the robbery of Rs 20 lakh from a group of businessmen from Kerala at a hotel in Madiwala on Thursday night.

Mahesh Kanakagiri

The police officer has been identified as Mahesh Kanakagiri, attached to the CID's Homicide and Burglary Division.

According to police, a gang of five men allegedly intercepted three businessmen at the hotel and introduced themselves as police personnel. The gang allegedly accused the victims of being involved in money laundering, recorded videos of them and demanded that they hand over the cash they were carrying.

When the businessmen refused, the gang allegedly assaulted them, snatched Rs 20 lakh in cash and fled the spot in an official CID police jeep.

One of the victims, Junish Babu, a native of Malappuram in Kerala, approached the Madiwala police and lodged a complaint. Based on his statement, the police launched an investigation.

Based on a tip-off, a police team arrested Kupendra Reddy and Vasanth Kumar, who are into real estate business. During interrogation, the duo revealed the involvement of police inspector Mahesh.

Investigators said Mahesh absconded after an FIR was registered in connection with the robbery.

▸ Robbery, Page 5B

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda holds a meeting with BMRCL officials and Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, Tushar Giri Nath. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Metro Pink Line full corridor by March 2027: KBG

BENGALURU, DHNS: In his first review meeting of the Namma Metro project on Friday, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda blamed "mismanaged" metro worksites for city's "visual disfigurement" and some of its traffic congestion.

He also set new timelines for opening new lines, but conceded that the deadlines could be missed given the BMRCL's "notorious" track record.

The minister set a new timeline for the full opening of the 21.26-km Pink Line, which will link Kalena Agrahara to Nagavara. The 7.5-km elevated stretch from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere will open by August 15, instead of the May-June target. The 13.75-km underground section from Dairy Circle to Nagavara will be commissioned by March 2027, against the deadline of December 2026.

Urban Development Department Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Giri Nath, BMRCL MD J Ravishankar and others were present.

▸ Metro, Page 5B

CAUSE OF CONCERN

Kids in conflict with law: 5k cases in 5 yrs in K'taka

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Karnataka has reported over 5,200 cases involving children in conflict with the law over the last five years.

More than 75% of these cases are related to serious and heinous offences including murder, rape and armed robbery. Of the total, 4,580 children in conflict with the law were aged between 15 and 18.

According to data, which covers the period from March 2021 to December 2025, provided by the Department of Women and Child Development, Bengaluru (including both Urban and Rural), Mysuru, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Vijaypura, Belagavi, Ballari, and Chitradurga are among the districts that regularly report a high number of offences committed by children.

Experts said that mobile/social media addiction, dropping out of school, social and financial backgrounds, lack of awareness and depleting moral education in schools are major reasons for the increase in the number of children coming in conflict with the law.

Government officials involved in the protection of child rights also concede that there is a growing trend in the state where teenagers are used by gangs to commit major crimes so they can escape the arms of the law with minimum punishment.

M L Parashuram, co-founder of Odanadi Seva Trust, said multiple data sources show that more adolescents are committing heinous crimes.

"Exposure to harmful content on mobile and social media is one of the major reasons for this," he said, adding that parents are failing to monitor what their kids are being exposed to.

"Easy availability of drugs is also playing a major role in children conflicting with the law. Gangs are trapping children under 18 to commit crimes because they know it is easy for kids to escape stricter punishments," he said.

Parashuram lamented that schools are also failing to address adolescent issues, and the lack of sex education in the curriculum is resulting in a large number of children, both girls and boys, involving themselves in sexual offences.

Data showed that Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) cases account for nearly 50% of total serious crimes where children come in conflict with the law.

▸ Children, Page 5B

Two feared drowned in BWSSB's sewage tank

Police register case against contractor

BENGALURU, DHNS

A supervising engineer and a colleague are feared drowned after falling into a sewage treatment tank at a BWSSB plant in Belagere, Varthur, on Thursday evening.

The missing workers are supervising engineer Agilan Mohan from Tamil Nadu and Brijesh Kumar from Bihar.

The incident occurred at 6.30 pm at the Bellandur Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), a 90-MLD capacity facility of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) that processes and treats wastewater.

Three workers had entered the sewage pumping wet well, 13 metres deep, to repair three gates in the treatment system.

A fire department officer said Kumar was standing on the small steps inside the tank when he slipped. Mohan, who was supervising the work and holding on to Kumar's belt, also fell in.

The third worker, Karthik, who had also entered the tank, managed to escape. He alerted other staff and was shifted to a private hospital for treatment.

"Given the nature of the tank and the time lapse since the accident, the chances of survival of the missing workers are very slim," a senior fire and emergency services officer told *DH*.

The tank contains nearly 10 feet of slurry at the bottom, and officials suspect poisonous gases, including hydrogen sulphide and carbon monoxide, may have formed inside, posing a risk to rescuers.

Teams from the NDRF and Fire and Emergency Services used specialised equipment and remotely operated machinery through the night to remove sludge and search for the missing workers. However, officials said conditions inside the tank made the operation extremely challenging.

Search operation by NDRF and fire and emergency services personnel in Varthur. PHOTO: BCP

The search is to continue on Saturday.

Based on a complaint filed by BWSSB officials, Varthur police registered a case of negligence against the private company contracted by the BWSSB to carry out work at the facility. A senior police officer said investigation is underway.

The complainant has alleged that the Chennai-based contractor, VATECH WABAG Limited, carried out the cleaning work in violation of the BWSSB rules and mandatory safety protocols. The complaint, therefore, seeks the registration of a criminal case against the contractor for alleged criminal negligence and requests appropriate legal action.

Inquiry panel

The BWSSB constituted a panel of three senior officials on Friday to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the incident.

The panel comprises Chief Engineer KN Rajeev, Additional Chief Engineer KS Renukumar and Deputy Chief Engineer Vinutha DS. It must examine the circumstances that led to the accident, identify those responsible and submit a detailed factual report to the BWSSB chairman by 12 noon on Saturday.

The bus involved in the accident

BMTC electric bus kills mason, driver flees

BENGALURU, DHNS: A speeding Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) electric bus ran over and killed a 58-year-old man near Manganahalli Circle in Jnanabharathi on Thursday night.

The victim, Raju, a mason and resident of Manganahalli, was walking near the circle when the bus lost control and hit him, police said.

Raju

He suffered severe injuries and died on the spot.

The bus driver stopped the vehicle after the accident and fled the scene. Angry residents gathered and blamed the driver's careless driving for the death.

Jnanabharathi traffic police arrived at the scene, seized the bus and registered a case against the driver.

A search for the drive is underway.

Hunt on for gang that abducted, robbed man of Rs 1.09 crore

Two police teams on trail of seven who kidnapped victim

BENGALURU, DHNS

Two teams from the Madanayakanahalli police station are tracing a gang of seven who allegedly kidnapped and robbed a man of Rs 1.09 crore at knifepoint.

"Efforts are underway to trace the suspects. It has been verified that the incident did occur as narrated by the complainant," a senior police officer told *DH*.

"Once the suspects are traced and arrested, the source of the stolen money, the exact amount and the motive behind the crime would be clear soon."

The incident occurred on the night of June 15 near Kuduregere Colony off Kunigal Road.

The victim, 41-year-old RI Shivashankar, who ran D-360 security agency in Yeshwantpur, was in his car with his driver, Chethan.

Shivashankar was going home after collecting Rs 74 lakh from a hotel in Yelahanka. He told the police he was planning to start a company named ANRC (American Nuclear Research Centre) with associates from Andhra Pradesh, identified as Mohammed Parvez, Jipson, and Aleem. The money was meant for the new venture.

The suspects waylaid and abducted him, taking him to a forest near Nelamangala. They then threatened and forced him to contact his wife, instructing her to hand over Rs 35 lakh kept at home. Shivashankar alleged the gang robbed him of Rs 1.09 crore in all.

Investigators have also noted that VV Puram police had booked the victim, RI Shivashankar, in a cheating case involving antique tumblers last year. They are now probing whether the stolen money could be connected to that case and are not ruling out the possibility of an insider angle.

Madanayakanahalli police registered a case under Sections 140(2) (kidnapping/abduction) and 310(2) (robbery) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

EARLY EARNINGS

A child vendor waits for customers along New BEL Road, selling jamun (black plum). Known for its Ayurvedic properties, the fruit is believed to help manage diabetes and boost immunity. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

TIMELY TREATMENT

Alzheimer's drug works best in early stages: Experts

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Donanemab, the newly approved Alzheimer's drug, is effective mainly in the disease's early stages, say doctors in Bengaluru, who stress the need for timely diagnosis.

"Donanemab is a new molecule that targets the amyloid fibrils in the brain from accumulating, which are responsible for Alzheimer's," said geriatrician Dr Steve Paul Manjaly.

"This medication stops the accumulation of amyloid fibrils, resulting in the transmission of signals in the brain and improving memory and cognitive performance."

"Presently, there are no existing treatments to reverse or halt the disease significantly. It can only temporarily sustain the degradation and have positive effects on mood," he said. "Compared to that, Donanemab will halt the progression."

Doctors also note that late diagnosis of Alzheimer's is common, with most patients presenting only at the moderate or advanced stages of cognitive impairment.

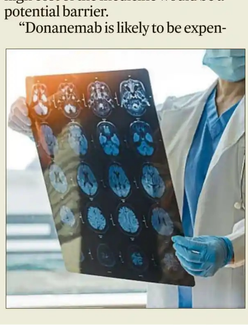
"Studies suggest that 50-70% of people with dementia remain undiagnosed. Disease-modifying drugs are helpful in the earlier stages," said neurology consultant Dr Pradeep R.

"The most potential impact would be that the awareness of this drug would push for earlier screenings, diagnosis, and family awareness."

Cost factor a worry

However, some doctors believe the high cost of the medicine would be a potential barrier.

"Donanemab is likely to be expensive for most Indian families, especially in the initial years after its introduction," said neurology lead consultant Dr Anuradha HK.



"The total cost may include not only the medicine itself, but also specialist consultations, diagnostic tests such as MRI and amyloid scans, infusion charges and regular monitoring during treatment.

"Wider availability, local pricing strategies and insurance support could improve affordability in the future."

Biomarker testing

Blood biomarkers might soon become part of routine Alzheimer's diagnosis due to their simplicity, doctors note.

"These tests can look for proteins tied to Alzheimer's pathology using just a simple blood sample, so in many ways they are less invasive than the diagnostic approaches we use right now," said neurology lead consultant Dr BK Madhusudhan.

"As people become more aware about dementia, and as diagnostic tools become easier to access, blood-based biomarkers are expected to take on a bigger part in everyday clinical practice."

Bengaluru Saturday, June 20, 2026 Pages 32 Vol 79 No 170 ₹8

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DH on Saturday

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The Power of Good

Jio Platforms files for India's largest ever IPO of $4 billion

P13

40 years of Malgudi Days

The SATURDAY STORY

Four decades after it first aired, 'Malgudi Days' continues to charm viewers with its simple storytelling and relatable characters. For *Saturday Story*, the cast and crew look back on the adventure and challenges of adapting R K Narayan's classic tales from the fictional town of Malgudi for the screen.

Full story, Page 15

SC: Citizens have fundamental right to safe footpaths

Says demarcated pedestrian paths must take precedence over vehicle movement

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court on Friday held that the right to walk on demarcated footpaths is a fundamental right under the Constitution and must take precedence over the movement of motor vehicles.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Atul S Chandurkar ruled that the right to walk flows from Article 19(1)(d) (right to move freely) along with Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.

"The citizen's fundamental right to walk on a demarcated footpath is primary and shall have priority over movement by motorised vehicles," the bench stated.

The court also called for the establishment of a regulatory body to protect and enhance the right to walk. In a significant procedural move, the apex court re-numbered the case as a petition under Article 32 and impleaded the Union government.

The court underscored that if a road exists, there is a corresponding duty on urban development authorities, municipal corporations, municipalities and panchayats to demarcate, construct, maintain and safeguard footpaths and pedestrian infrastructure.

Violation of this right would entitle citizens to seek constitutional remedies, including compensation, independent of provisions under the Motor Vehicles Act, the bench held.

▸ Footpaths, Page 5B

Key observations and orders

- Right to walk on demarcated footpaths is integral to Articles 21 and 19(1)(d) of Constitution
- Bats for establishing a regulatory body to enforce the right
- Since there is no express legislation to execute this right, a statutory framework required
- This remedy is distinct from that of the claim that a person may make under Motor Vehicles Act, can be enforced against local civic bodies
- Directs SC registry to send a copy of judgment to Centre to reflect on necessity for initiating legal framework
- A copy of judgment to be sent to Law Commission for examining statutory framework for protecting the right
- Citizens entitled to enforce restitutionary remedy in case of violation of their right to walk

Delhi HC upholds temporary ban on Telegram

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed a plea filed by Telegram challenging the Centre's temporary ban on the messaging app, affirming the government's authority under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act to block an entire intermediary and not just specific content.

Justice Tejas Karia, in his order, ruled that the temporary blocking of Telegram was a proportionate and narrowly tailored measure, necessitated by the imminent NEET-UG re-examination on June 21.

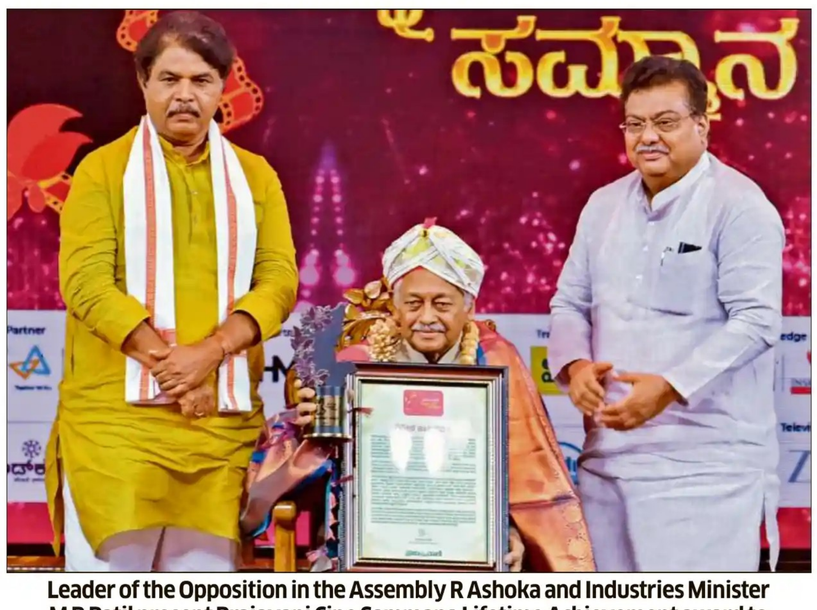
"The limited temporal scope of these measures demonstrates that they are narrowly tailored and confined to the period strictly necessary for securing the stated objective," the court observed.

The judge held that banning the app was the least restrictive option available, as narrower actions such as takedowns of specific bots and channels had proved ineffective due to Telegram's unique architecture.

The court noted that the platform's cloud-based design allows rapid addition of users to channels and groups, enabling swift amplification of content. "The platform architecture of Telegram is conducive to amplification and mass dissemination of content... any unlawful content, if circulated on Telegram, is capable of being amplified rapidly and give rise to a public order situation," it said.

▸ Telegram, Page 5B

HONOUR FOR KASARAVALLI



Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka and Industries Minister M B Patil present Prajavani Cine Sammana Lifetime Achievement award to veteran director Girish Kasaravalli in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO

Reports on Page 3

MLC polls cross-voting: BJP high command summons K'taka leaders

NEW DELHI, DHNS: BJP national president Nitin Nabin has summoned Karnataka BJP chief B Y Vijayendra, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka, and general secretary in-charge for Karnataka, Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, to Delhi on June 23 to seek explanations over large-scale cross-voting in the Legislative Council polls. The high command has taken serious note of the indiscipline, and the meeting is expected to result in organisational measures to prevent future breaches.

Details on Page 5A

Abhishek meets Birla seeking disqualification of 20 rebel MPs

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Trinamool Congress on Friday took the first step to disqualify its 20 MPs who have rebelled against Mamata Banerjee's leadership by submitting separate petitions against them. Party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and explained how they allegedly violated the anti-defection law. Sources said the Speaker would take a decision after listening to all sides and examining all aspects.

Details on Page 11

Lebanon truce agreed after US-Iran talks scrapped

DUBAI/WASHINGTON/BEIRUT, AGENCIES

Israel and Hezbollah agreed to a ceasefire in Lebanon on Friday after an escalation in fighting there put a deal to end the West Asia war under strain, less than two days after it was signed.

US-Iran talks in Switzerland planned for Friday were cancelled as fighting flared in Lebanon, creating new uncertainty about the timing of negotiations vital to ensure the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

US President Donald Trump later told *NBC News* that he had spoken with Israel and asked it to agree to the ceasefire. "You just gotta calm down sometimes and use your head," Trump was quoted as saying by an *NBC* reporter on X, who added the president had declined to specify whether he spoke with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Earlier, fighting flared anew in Lebanon, with authorities reporting 47 killed in Israeli strikes and Israel announcing the deaths of four of its soldiers.

▸ Iran, Page 5B

Smoke billows from the outskirts of a town following an Israeli strike, as seen from Nabatieh, southern Lebanon, on Friday. REUTERS

Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Bengaluru City Corporations
• North • South • East • West • Central
Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka
BHU GUARANTEE
6TH GUARANTEE
My e-Khata,
My Right Campaign
Hon'ble Minister for Bangalore Development Sri Krishna Bhairegowda is discussing with senior officials of the Urban Development Department.
Date: 20.06.2026
Time: 10 AM to 5 PM
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e-Khata Open House Venues:
https://tinyurl.com/ymv5t5ey
SCAN QR CODE
For e-Khata grievances at:
https://tinyurl.com/4d7ysx73
"My Khata, My Hakku" Campaign
"Secure your property, protect yourself from fraud"
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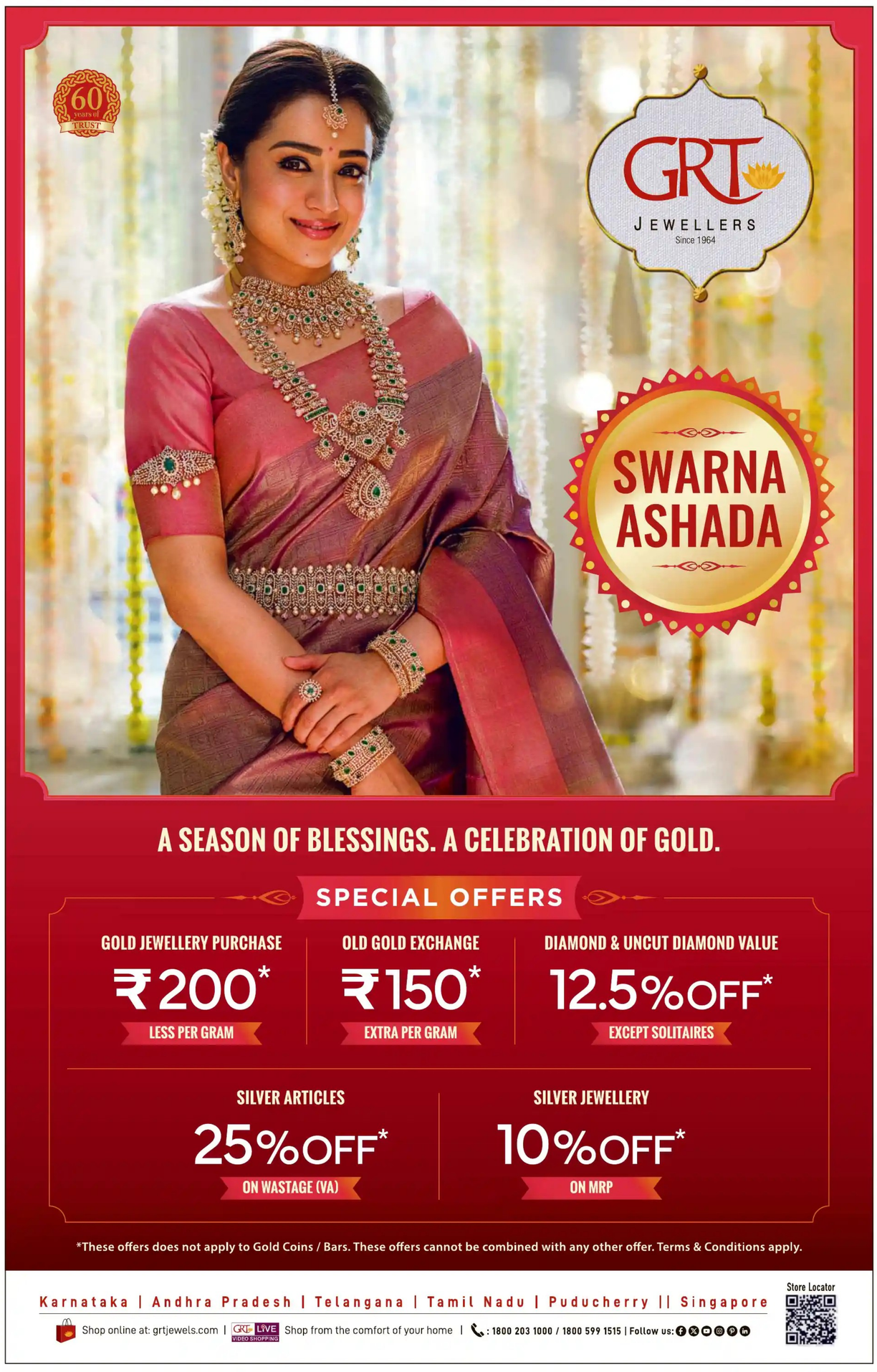
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Toddler dies after tumbling down the staircase at friend's home

BENGALURU, DHNS : A two-year-old child died after tumbling down a flight of stairs of a house on the outskirts of Bengaluru, police said on Friday.

On June 16, Dikshith had come with his parents to their friend's house in Totadaguddadahalli under the jurisdiction of the Madanayakanahalli police station.

His father Naveen Kumar works as a cab driver, while his mother Kavya is a homemaker.

Investigators found that while the adults were on the first floor, talking, the child wandered out, tripped and tumbled violently down the stairs.

"The child had no visible injuries. He was immediately taken to hospital for treatment," a police officer told *DH*.

However, doctors found the child had suffered internal injuries and he died the following night after failing to respond to treatment. Madanayakanahalli police have launched an investigation.

GBA plans revival of 32 'worst-quality' lakes

Engineers were asked to suggest remedial measures

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Friday met to discuss the revival of 32 lakes classified under the 'worst water quality' category.

Maheshwar Rao

The 32 lakes are classified as Class 'E' in the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) April 2026 water quality assessment, indicating severe pollution levels and water quality unsuitable for bathing.

Engineers were asked to suggest remedial measures.

Of the 182 lakes under the GBA's custody, the KSPCB tested water quality in 93. It categorised 61 lakes as Class 'D' and as many as 32 as Class 'E'. The eastern part of Bengaluru had the highest number of polluted lakes, with 12 under Class 'E'. These include Doddanekkundi, Tubarahalli (Siddapura), Rampura, Devarabeesanahalli, Vibhuthipura, Doddakannahalli, Seegehalli, Bhoganahalli, Soulkere, Vijinapura, and Panathur.

North Bengaluru had eight lakes in the category: Jakkur, Amruthahalli, Allalasandra, Yelahanka, Abbigere, Singapura, Rachenahalli, and Kogilu.

South Bengaluru recorded seven such lakes, including Yediyur, Devarakere, Dorekere, Uttarahalli, Doddakammanahalli, Basapura, and Parappana Agrahara.

West Bengaluru had five lakes in the worst category: Kempambudhi, Karihobanahalli, Vishwaneedam, Hoskerehalli and Kannahalli.

Central Bengaluru had one lake, Byrasandra, classified as Class 'E'.

The figures show that 34% of the lakes tested by the KSPCB under the GBA's jurisdiction continue to suffer from poor water quality, despite years of lake rejuvenation projects and investments in sewage infrastructure.

KSPCB's April 2026 assessment has classified 32 city lakes under Class 'E', indicating severe pollution levels and water quality unfit for bathing.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao directed officials to submit a report with solutions at the earliest.

Doddabidarakallu Lake nears completion, with just 20% of the work still pending. The lake, spread across 36 acres, was taken up for restoration in 2018.

Fund crunch stalls final phase of Doddabidarakallu Lake rejuvenation

BENGALURU, DHNS: The rejuvenation of Doddabidarakallu Lake in northwest Bengaluru remains incomplete, with nearly 20% of the work pending due to a shortage of funds.

Residents say the lack of maintenance and incomplete work could undo the efforts citizens put in to revitalise the lake through a series of campaigns.

After the restructuring of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the lake now comes under the Bengaluru West City Corporation. The transition has created confusion over the lake's upkeep and the continuation of rejuvenation work.

Not all the work so far is up to the mark. The sluice gate installed by the contractor was washed away in the recent rains.

Local resident Subash Shetty said the lake has undergone transformation in the last six years, though the work was quite slow.

"It is de-silted. The bund work is complete. A few works such as walkway improvements, fencing, entrance gate, gazebo and street lights are pending," he said, adding that multiple visits to the corporation have yielded no positive results.

Officials said some components remain pending due to a shortage of funds.

The lake, spread across 36 acres, was taken up for restoration in 2018. Residents say two encroachments are yet to be cleared.

BDA plans facial recognition at HQ to curb middlemen

Proposal currently at a conceptual stage, say officials

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is planning to introduce a facial recognition-based entry system at its headquarters to curb the activities of middlemen operating on the premises.

The proposal is currently at a conceptual stage.

A senior BDA official said cameras would be installed not only at entry points, but also in corridors.

"We have learnt that the same set of people keep coming to the BDA office with malafide intentions. The only way to expose them is to record their activities and track the sections they visit," the official said, adding that visitors broadly fall into two categories—those with genuine grievances and those with ulterior motives.

The move comes amid persistent complaints that middlemen approach citizens visiting the BDA office for services such as site allotments, e-khata, property records, and building plan approvals.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Regular open meetings for citizens to raise issues directly with officials.
- Sessions are livestreamed for wider public access.
- Citizens urged to avoid middlemen and use official channels.
- Move aimed at reducing reliance on brokers, some with alleged political links

Digital trail

Officials said the system is expected to create a digital trail of visitors, helping identify and deter unauthorised agents from operating within the premises.

"Once we start recording activities, we hope they will hesitate to enter. Even the public may stop engaging them," the official said.

The initiative is part of the BDA's broader effort to streamline public grievance redressal through regular open meetings, where citizens can directly present concerns to officials. The meetings are also livestreamed, with the authority urging citizens to use official channels instead of relying on brokers, some of whom are said to have political links.

June 24: Pension adalat deadline

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Bengaluru, one of the centres/units of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), Department of Space, Government of India, will organise a pension adalat on June 29 at its Bengaluru campus to address grievances of pensioners and family pensioners.

Pensioners and family pensioners of LPSC, Bengaluru, may submit their grievances or representations, if any, to the Senior Administrative Officer, LPSC Bengaluru, by post or email at sado@lpsch.gov.in on or before June 24.

Book cremation slots only via official portals, directs GBA

BENGALURU, DHNS: Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has urged citizens to book slots at electric crematoriums only through official online portals, warning against fake websites and unauthorised links appearing in online search results.

The appeal was issued by the Bengaluru North City Corporation.

In a statement, the civic body said it operates two electric crematoriums — Chirashantidhama Electric Crematorium at Hebbal Kempapura and Mukthidhama Electric Crematorium at Medi Agrahara — to ensure dignified last rites.

Officials advised the public to avoid third-party platforms and use only official GBA-managed portals for bookings.

The corporation has also filed a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police Division against fake websites misleading users seeking cremation services.

Links for bookings

- https://apps.bbmpgov.in/ crematorium/forms/onlinebookingfrm.aspx
- https://site.bbmp.gov.in/ onlinecrematoriumprocessflow. html

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Namma Malleshwara: Indian Machine Sports Festival; Inauguration by Shobha Karandlaje and CN Ashwath Narayan; Beagles Basketball Court, 15th Cross, Malleswaram; from 9.30 am onwards.

Raksha Foundation: Free notebook distribution programme; Inauguration by R Ashoka; Notebooks distributed by LS Tejasvi Surya; Chaired by CK Ramamurthy; Chandragupta Maurya (Shalini) Playground, 5th Main Road, Jayanagar; from 10 am.

Release of Bharat Scouts and Guides: Annual Programme Plan 2026–27, to be released by UT Khader, chaired by PGR Sindhia; Palace Road; 10 am.

PM SHRI Government Composite High School: Inauguration of renovated school building; Kakolu, Doddaballapur Road, near Rajanukunte; 10 am.

119th Birth Anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram-National Seminar on 'Dr Babu Jagjivan Ram-Builder of New India': Prof Venkatagirigowda Memorial Hall, Bangalore University, Jnanabharathi; 10.30 am.

Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar Jayanti Celebration: Inauguration by Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar with religious leaders and award presentations; Krishnaraja Parishat Hall, Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Chamarajpet; 4 pm.

CULTURAL

Maitreyi Kannada Mahila Haridasa Trust: Annual Day and Awards Ceremony; Book releases: 'Sadhana' by Jayalakshmi Mangalmurthy and 'Bhagavatamrita Suladigalu' by Sudha Deshpande; Govardhanagiri Udupi Puttige Matha, Basavanagudi; 10 am.

Seagull, Kolkata: Reba Hore birth centenary art exhibition featuring 'Broken Foot Journal and Other Narratives'; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road; 11 am.

Kannada Modalu Balaga: Roundtable on 'Preventing the marginalisation of Kannada in private English schools'; Speakers include TS Nagabharana, L Hanumanthaiah, Purushottama Bilimale, BT Lalitha Nayak and others to attend; Hotel Woodlands, Sampangirama Nagar; 2.30 pm.

Kamala Hampana Sahitya Vedike: Second memorial for Kamala Hampana; Chaired by Hampa Nagarajaiah with poetry tributes, music performances and special honours; Mahadev Desai Hall, Gandhi Bhavan, Kumara Krupa Road; 3 pm.

Champa Sirigannada Award Presentation: Presented by SG Siddaramaiah to SaRa Govindu; Kuvempu Hall, Kannada Sahitya Parishath, Chamarajpet; 3.30 pm.

Department of Kannada and Culture: 'Maneyangaladalli Matukate'; Monthly guest Akkai Padmashali with BS Manjunath Swamy to attend; Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 4 pm.

World Music Day Concert: Vocal performances by Padma Adiga and Sikkil Gurucharan, accompanied by violinists and percussionists; Ramana Maharshi Heritage Auditorium, Sanjaynagar; 4.15 pm.

Swarakshema Foundation and Sri Shankara Cancer Foundation: World Music Day– 'Swaroopachara' Therapeutic Concert Series; Vocals by RK Padmanabha with accompanying artists; Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital, Shankarapura; 4.30 pm.

Rahi Theatre: Play 'Drohi Zindagi, directed by Garlin Judge and Neha Singh; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Jain Milan Bengaluru Central: Jain Literary Series Lecture on 'Nayasena's Dharmamrita–Dimensions of Dharma' by HM Nagarajun; Chakreshwari Mahila Samaja, Anebande Road, Jayanagar 3rd Block; 5.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.4°C
Minimum	21.4°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 8;30 pm)	68%
Sunset (June 20)	6:48 pm
Sunrise (June 21)	5:54 am
Moonrise	10:05 am
Moonset	10:53 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Special trains to Kerala

BENGALURU, DHNS: The railways will extend special trains between SMVT Bengaluru and Thiruvananthapuram North to clear the extra rush:

Train number 06523 will continue to run on Mondays from June 29 to July 27 (except on July 6), while train number 06524 will run on Tuesdays from June 30 to July 28 (except on July 7).

Train number 06547 will run on Wednesdays from July 1 to 29 (except on July 8), and train number 06548 on Thursdays from July 2 to 30 (except on July 9).

Train number 06555 will run on Fridays from July 10 to 24 (except on July 3), and train number 06556 on Sundays from July 12 to 26 (except on July 5).

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

E-Auction programme for the month of JULY & AUGUST -2026. P(B)383

JULYe - Auction 2026	
DATE	DIVISIONS/DEPOTS
02.07.26	NANDED
06.07.26	SECUNDERABAD
10.07.26	HYDERABAD
13.07.26	LALLAGUDA
14.07.26	SECUNDERABAD
15.07.26	HYDERABAD
16.07.26	LALLAGUDA
17.07.26	NANDED
24.07.26	SECUNDERABAD
27.07.26	HYDERABAD
28.07.26	LALLAGUDA
AUGUST e-Auction 2026	
DATE	DIVISIONS/DEPOTS
04.08.26	NANDED
06.08.26	SECUNDERABAD
12.08.26	HYDERABAD
13.08.26	LALLAGUDA
14.08.26	NANDED
17.08.26	SECUNDERABAD
18.08.26	HYDERABAD
19.08.26	LALLAGUDA
27.08.26	SECUNDERABAD
28.08.26	HYDERABAD
31.08.26	LALLAGUDA

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Secunderabad
A452

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

4 x 14 = 56 Scm

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of The President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00 hrs on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30hrs: **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of work; Tender Value & Earnest Money** respectively : **(1); E-KGP-South-20-2026;** Provision for extension, raising, resurfacing of Platform & other amenities at Ranital, Nilgiri Road, Khantapara & Bahanagabazar station under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Balasore (2nd Call); ₹ 20,90,97,452.55; ₹ 41,82,000.00; **(2); E-KGP-South-19-2026;** Supply and stacking of 22,422 Cum machine crushed track ballast confirming to RDSO specification (IRS-GE-1) at Bangriposi ballast depot under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Balasore; ₹ 4,90,72,740.88; ₹ 9,81,500.00; **(3); E-KGP-South-21-2026;** Transportation of P. Way materials & fittings to different P. Way units under Sr. DEN/S/Kharagpur; ₹ 1,34,57,874.44; ₹ 2,69,200.00; **(4); E-KGP-EAST-36-2026;** Construction of New Electrical Switch Room at Deulti. Kolaghat - Bhogpur, and Widening of LC gate and Height gauge at Panskura for Double boom LC No. 47 under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/East/Kharagpur; ₹ 1,06,29,012.08; ₹ 2,12,600.00; **(5); E-KGP-EAST-35-2026;** Supply and laying 50 mm gauge hard stone machine crushed ballast on cess of 10 Station Yards (Andul, Uluberia,Changail, Fuleswar, Bagnan, Deulti, Mecheda, Bhogpur, Panskura, Haur) in between Kharagpur - Howrah section (12500 Cum) under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/East/Kharagpur; ₹ 3,14,29,987.31; ₹ 6,28,600.00; **(6); E-KGP-EAST-37-2026;** Execution of P-Way works in between Howrah- Kharagpur section-1) TFR for 23 Km. 2) TBR-21.945 Tkm. 3) SEJ & Glued Joints renewal 4) TTR (CS+CMSC) 63 sets 5) TRR (P)-23.764 Tkm under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/East/Kharagpur (2nd call); ₹ 6,92,36,782.83; ₹ 13,84,700.00; **Tender document cost :** ₹ 0.00 (for Sl. No. 1 to 6); **Date of opening :** 06.07.2026 (for Sl. No. 1); 09.07.2026 (for Sl. No. 2 & 3); 17.07.2026 (for Sl. No. 4); 23.07.2026 (for Sl. No. 5 & 6). **Completion period of the work :** 12 Months (for Sl. No. 1, 3, 5 & 6); 6 Months (for Sl. No. 2) & 9 Months (for Sl. No. 4). **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 1 from 22/06/2026 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 06/07/2026. **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 2, 3 from 25/06/2026 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 09/07/2026. **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 4 from 03/07/2026 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 17/07/2026. **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 5, 6 from 09/07/2026 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 23/07/2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-354)**

PUNE MUNCIPAL CORPORATION
CHIEF ENGINEER ROAD DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (N.I.T) YEAR 2026-2027

Tender Sale Date :- 22-06-2026 to Date :- 02-07-2026 upto 02:30 PM.
Bid Submission Start & End Date :- 22-06-2026 to Date :- 02-07-2026 upto 02:30 PM.
Technical Envelope Opening Date :- 03-07-2026 03:00 PM

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Cr.) put to the Tender Excluding GST	NIT Mode	EMD Amount	Work Period	One Envelope / Two Envelope	New Work / Retender Work	Concern Contact Person
1	PMC/ ROAD/ 2026/18	Appointment of Expert Consultant for Pre and Post Tender Activities for preparation of DPR of all roads in Pune Cantonment area under Pune Cantonment Assembly Constituency. prioritization of roads, and development and repair of roads. (Proposed road length	-	B-2	500/-	24 MONTH	Two Envelope (B-2)	New Work	Mr. Tulsidas Bhandarkote 9405707007
2	PMC/ ROAD/ 2026/19	Appointment of Project Management Consultant for Pre and Post Tender Activities for Construction of River side Elevated/At grade DP Road from Vitthalwadi Kaman at Vadgaon (Kh) to S. No. 10.	30 CR	B-2	500/-	24 MONTH	Two Envelope (B-2)	New Work	Mrs. Neha kolte 9930311829

A) All details of Terms & Conditions of above works are incorporated in tender documents which is available on website www.mahatenders.gov.in Sales & acceptance is available by online system only.
B) If sales or submission not been available on last day also & it is not been submitted will be sole responsible of tender.
C) Online tender process information will be available at Road Department, Pune Muncipal Corporation.
D) As per office order No. 32, dated 22/04/2016 EMD deposit amount will be acceptable through Online Banking only.
Tender rate for above Pre & Post tender activity works & appointment of consultant for (PMC) Project Management Consultancy to be filled on Company letter head as per financial bid in (Envelope 2) to be uploaded will be considered only.

XXX
SUPERITENDENT Engineer (Road)
Pune Muncipal Corporation

Advt. No. 3/242 Date : 19/06/2026

झारखण्ड सरकार
खान एवं भूतत्व विभाग

संख्या–ख०नि०(लौह)–**18/2021- 1645** **आदेश** /एम०,राँची, दिनांक–**18.06.2026**

M/s South West Mining Ltd. Bellary, Karnatka के पक्ष में Bhangaon Iron Ore Block, District-West Singhbhum (Total area 111 Ha.) के लिए निर्गत Letter of Intent, Letter No. 2256, dated- 28.08.2018 की अवधि दिनांकः– 27.08.2021 को समाप्त हो गया है एवं Preferred Bidder द्वारा LoI के शर्तो का अनुपालन नही करने के कारण Sub Rule 6 of the Rule 10 of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 के आलोक में इस खनिज ब्लॉक का Auction Process स्वतः Annul हो गया है।

उपरोक्त खनिज ब्लॉक की पुनः Fresh नीलामी किये जाने के प्रस्ताव पर माननीय विभागीय (मुख्य) मंत्री का अनुमोदन प्राप्त है।

ह०/–
(जियाउल अंसारी)
सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव

PR 382782 (Mines and Geology)26-27*D

झारखण्ड सरकार, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर
rwdjamshedpur@gmail.com

ई-अति अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–अति अल्पकालिन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 02/2024-25/RV/STPKG/RWD/EE/JSR दिनांक :- 18.06.2026
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल संख्या
			अंक में	अक्षर में		
1.	RWD/EE/JSR/ STPKG/18/2023-24	कालिकापुर से बेरहाकाटा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–5.280 कि0मी0)	3,59,13,200.00	तीन करोड़ उन्सठ लाख तेरह हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह	छठा
		L063 सोनापोस से पथारभेजा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–3.300 कि0मी0)	1,82,70,300.00	एक करोड़ बिरासी लाख सतर हजार तीन सौ रू0 मात्र		
		ग्वालकाटा बडघुटू चौक से ग्वालकाटा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–2.650 कि0मी0)	1,37,19,200.00	एक करोड़ सैंतीस लाख उन्नीस हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र		
		L063-T03 से टुटकूघुटू तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–3.400 कि0मी0)	2,05,76,700.00	दो करोड़ पाँच लाख छिहतर हजार सात सौ रू0 मात्र		
		L119 हाता–जादूगोड़ा रोड से छोटा सिगदी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–1.800 कि0मी0)	1,10,67,500.00	एक करोड़ दस लाख सडसठ हजार पाँच सौ रू0 मात्र		
		L049 हाता–जादूगोड़ा रोड से कमलपुर तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य। (लं–7.100 कि0मी0)	3,90,23,000.00	तीन करोड़ नब्बे लाख तेईस हजार रू0 मात्र		
		कुल	**13,85,69,900.00**	तेरह करोड़ पचासी लाख उन्हतर हजार नौ सौ रू0 मात्र		

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– 20.06.2026।
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समयः– 04.07.2026 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 06.07.2026 पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक–करनडीह, थाना–परसुडीह, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन–831002।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0657–2298902।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल,
जमशेदपुर

PR 382745 REO (26-27)_D

CORRIGENDUM

Reference to the Public Notice published **in Deccan Herald, Bengaluru Edition on Page No. 11, dated 19-06-2026,** the following amendment to the description of the property mentioned in the Schedule is hereby made:

"All the piece and parcel of the transferrable development rights certificate to be issued by the Bangalore Development Authority pursuant to acquisition of the immovable property bearing Survey No. 53/9 (earlier part of Survey No. 53/8, much earlier part of Survey No. 53/2) measuring 1 acre 2½ guntas, situated at Kachamaranahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru District...."

Vinay K. S., Advocate,
Vinay Kademane & Associates
Bengaluru-01 Ph.: 080 22863885
Bengaluru Date:19-06-2026

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TIRUPATI
(An Autonomous Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

RECRUITMENT FOR COUNSELLOR AND JUNIOR COUNSELLOR ON CONTRACT BASIS

IISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals with an excellent academic record and relevant work experience for the posts of **"Counsellor - 01 No."** and **"Junior Counsellor -01 No."** purely on a contract basis.

For detailed advertisement, please visit www.iisertirupati.ac.in and click on the link "Careers-Administration".

The last date for submission of online applications is **17.00 Hrs. on June 29, 2026.**

Advt.No.40/2026/IISER-T/Rect./06.06.2026 **Sd/- Registrar (i/c)**

CBC 21377/11/0005/2627

CHiPS
Chhattisgarh InfoTech Promotion Society(CHiPS)
2th Floor SDC Building , Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492002
Phone : 0771-4014158 Fax : 0771-4014158 E-mail : ceochips@nic.in

TENDER NOTICE

No.193725/CEO/CHiPS/EMPL/Wi-Fi /2026 Raipur Dated:18 / 06/2026

Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (CHiPS), under Department of Information Technology, Govt. of CG invites technical proposals from reputed Bidder for **"Empanelment of agencies for providing plug-and-play Wi-Fi Internet services, Access Point (AP) hardware, and on-site technical support for temporary/event-based requirements on a rental basis "**

The document can be downloaded from the website www.chips.gov.in

S-48218/3 CEO, CHiPS

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: support@deccanherald.co.in

Gruha Lakshmi money paid to beneficiaries sans bank account: CAG

Audit finds lacunae in implementation of scheme

BENGALURU, DHNS

Thousands of payments under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme were made despite missing bank account details of beneficiaries, the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) has found, posing tough questions to the government on "potentially irregular transactions" under the flagship scheme.

At least Rs 46.52 crore went to beneficiaries via 23,262 payments "without capturing the bank account numbers," the audit, whose findings *DH* has seen, found. The CAG has asked the department of women & child development to "explain as to how such payments could have been made."

The audit findings were discussed at a review meeting Chief Minister D K Shivakumar chaired on Friday.

Gruha Lakshmi, under which women head of households receive Rs 2,000 every month, is the biggest of the five 'flagship' guarantee schemes covering 1.22 crore beneficiaries. Since 2023, the government has spent more than Rs 74,000 crore on this scheme. In the current fiscal, the government has allocated Rs 28,608 crore.

Gruha Lakshmi, under which women head of households receive Rs 2,000 every month, is the biggest of the five 'flagship' guarantee schemes covering 1.22 crore beneficiaries

CAG audit finds

It has been observed that 19,020 beneficiaries have shared bank account numbers. That means different beneficiaries (two) have jointly held bank accounts. Such duplicate instances pose a risk of potential irregularities.

The CAG has also found that multiple beneficiaries having the same bank account number received payments.

"It has been observed that 19,020 beneficiaries have shared bank account numbers. That means different beneficiaries (two) have jointly held bank accounts," the audit said. "Such duplicate instances pose a risk of potential irregularities," the audit said.

According to the audit, 3.03 lakh successful payments amounting to Rs 60.69 crore have been made to such beneficiaries across various months. "Out of this, 8,995 successful payments amounting to Rs 1.8 crore have been made for the same months for these beneficiaries," it added.

The audit further accessed 10.06 lakh records showing that beneficiaries had changed their bank accounts "multiple times."

The CAG has asked the Directorate of Electronic Delivery of Citizen Services (ECDS) to furnish data on beneficiaries marked as 'ineligible' and details of complaints received under the scheme.

Flagging non-availability of data, the CAG said that the department has "failed" to furnish details of deleted beneficiaries.

In January 2026, the department had agreed to submit a compliance report to the CAG based on issues identified during data analysis. "However, it is observed that no action has been initiated," the audit said. "The inaction not only reflects lack of responsiveness to audit observations, but also delays corrective measures in respect of potentially irregular transactions detected through data analysis," it said.

Guarantee schemes: CM orders door-to-door survey

Encourage 'well-off' beneficiaries to opt out, DKS tells officials

BENGALURU, DHNS

Facing resistance over fresh applications for its flagship guarantee schemes, the state government will launch a door-to-door survey to identify genuine beneficiaries and weed out ineligible claimants, said Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, on Friday.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at Vidhana Soudha, he said, "Not a single eligible beneficiary should be excluded. Action must be limited to ineligible beneficiaries and misuse." Shivakumar also directed officials to encourage "well-off" beneficiaries to opt out of the schemes voluntarily.

The meeting flagged two major technical issues affecting the implementation of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme - funds being credited to deceased beneficiaries and into GST-IT payees' accounts.

"Around 1.08 lakh deceased beneficiaries were credited money through DBT. We have recovered Rs 15 crore out of the Rs 115 crore and will recover the full amount within a month. We dropped another 20,000 GST payees from the scheme," said S R Mehroz Khan, vice-chairperson of Karnataka State Guarantees' Implementation Authority.

The CM insisted that all the scheme-linked bank accounts were held within Karnataka after officials flagged cases where funds were transferred to other states and to voters outside Karnataka. Some had opened UPI accounts in Airtel Bank too.

"Welfare schemes funded by Karnataka should benefit only Karnataka beneficiaries. Only those in the electoral rolls should get benefits, and beneficiaries must ensure their names are not omitted during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision," CM said.

Shivakumar remarked that Gruha Jyothi had fewer irregularities due to adequate precautions taken early on. "Had similar safeguards been adopted for other schemes, the extent of misuse would have been lower," he said.

Gruha Jyothi has 1.65 crore beneficiaries and officials were asked to collect data on migrants from other states availing the scheme.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar speaks at a meeting to review guarantee schemes, at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday. Home Minister Priyank Kharge, Tourism Minister K J George, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa are also seen. PTI PHOTO

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Prajavani Kannada Cine Sammana: A night of glitz and glamour

Event captures spirit of Sandalwood in all colours

BENGALURU, DHNS

The fourth edition of Casa Grand Presents *Prajavani Kannada Cine Sammana* was held on Friday, featuring the who's who of the Kannada film industry.

For Kannada cinema, *Prajavani Kannada Cine Sammana* has evolved into more than just an awards night. It has become an annual celebration of Sandalwood's storytelling tradition, bringing together generations of actors, filmmakers, technicians and music directors under one roof.

This year, the event captured the spirit of an industry that continues to reinvent itself while remaining rooted in Karnataka's cultural identity.

The industry's biggest stars, including actors Sudeep, Jayamala, Ramesh Aravind, Rishab Shetty and Rachita Ram, shared the stage with emerging talent, while landmark films, memorable performances and behind-the-scenes craftsmanship received their due recognition.

Among the evening's major honours, filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Rachita Ram won the 'Breakthrough Performance of the Year' award, while Rishab Shetty was honoured with both 'Acting Excellence' (Male) and 'Excellence in Film Direction'.

Sandhya Arakere received the 'Acting Excellence' (Female) award. The 'Film of the Year award' went to 'Kantara: Chapter 1', produced by Hombale Films.

Actor-director Ramesh Aravind speaks after receiving the 'Cine Dhruvathare Award' at the Prajavani Kannada Cine Sammana ceremony. Anchor Anushree is seen. DH PHOTO/KRISHNAKUMAR P S

Fondly called the "Gentleman of Kannada Cinema", Ramesh Aravind received the 'Cine Dhruvathare Award' for his outstanding contribution to Kannada Cinema over the course of 40 years, greeted through a recorded message from filmmaker and politician Kamal Haasan.

During the event, actor Sudeep took part in a candid conversation with Ravindra Bhat, Executive Editor of *Prajavani*, reflecting on his career and journey in cinema.

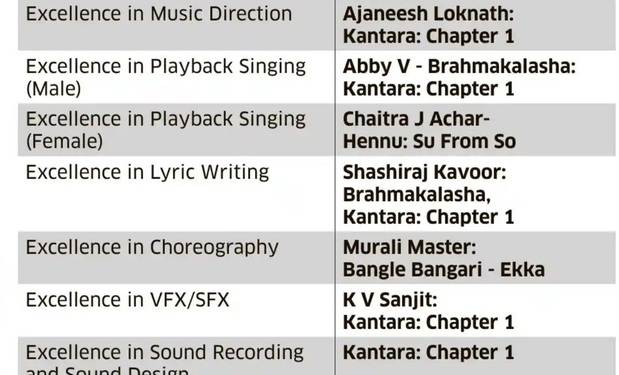
"The Kannada film industry is just going through a fever right now, but we'll pull through this. Nothing can ever bring down the Kannada industry. We have legacy history and potential. When we make a comeback, it'll be with a bang," Sudeep said.

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H D Kumarswamy, Opposition leader R Ashoka and Industries Minister M B Patil, among other prominent politicians, attended the event.

This year's edition is supported by a wide range of partners from across sectors, reflecting the growing stature of the event. Trends joins as Fashion Partner, while Akshaya Motors Mercedes-Benz is the Mobility Partner. Canara Bank is the Banking Partner, New Sudarshan Silks the Wardrobe Partner, HMD Mobile the Mobile Partner, Sunpure Sunflower Oil the Taste Partner, VIDA powered by Hero the EV Partner and Adigas Yatra the Travel Partner. Knowledge Partners include GM University, Davangere, Insight IAS and Gitam University, while the Government of Uttarakhand is the State Partner.

Associate sponsors include Amrith Organic Fertilisers, Malladihalli; Lidkar; Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited; MSIL Chits; NBCC (India) Ltd; The Janatha Cooperative Bank Ltd, Malleswaram; Ayurvedic Kayam Tablet; and Bindu Fizz Jeera Masala. Zee Kannada is the Telecast Partner and Ernst & Young the Audit Partner.

PV KANNADA CINE SAMMANA: ROLL OF HONOUR	
Film of the Year	**Kantara: Chapter 1**
Acting Excellence (Male)	**Rishab Shetty: Kantara: Chapter 1**
Acting Excellence (Female)	**Sandhya Arakere: Su From So**
Acting Excellence in a Supporting Role (Male)	**Deepak Rai Panaaje: Su From So**
Acting Excellence in a Supporting Role (Female)	**Shruthi: Madeva**
Excellence in Film Direction	**Rishab Shetty: Kantara: Chapter 1**
Excellence in Directorial Debut	**J P Tuminadu: Su From So**
Excellence in Cinematography	**Arvind Kashyap: Kantara: Chapter 1**
Excellence in Film Editing	**Suresh Mallayya: Kantara: Chapter 1**
Excellence in Script Writing	**Puneeth Rangaswamy: Elumale**
Excellence in Music Direction	**Ajaneesh Loknath: Kantara: Chapter 1**
Excellence in Playback Singing (Male)	**Abby V - Brahmakalasha: Kantara: Chapter 1**
Excellence in Playback Singing (Female)	**Chaitra J Achar-Hennu: Su From So**
Excellence in Lyric Writing	**Shashiraj Kavoor: Brahmakalasha, Kantara: Chapter 1**
Excellence in Choreography	**Murali Master: Bangle Bangari - Ekka**
Excellence in VFX/SFX	**K V Sanjit: Kantara: Chapter 1**
Excellence in Sound Recording and Sound Design	**Kantara: Chapter 1**
Excellence in Production Design:	**Pragathi Rishab Shetty and Dharani - Kantara: Chapter 1**
Best Social Impact Film	**Bilichukki Hallihakki**
Best New Star Actor (Male)	**Shaneel Gautham: Su From So**
Best New Star Actor (Female)	**Priyanka Achar: Elumale**
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS	
People's Choice Film of the Year	**Kantara: Chapter 1**
People's Choice Actor (Male)	**Rishab Shetty: Kantara: Chapter 1**
People's Choice Actor (Female)	**Ashika Ranganath: Gatha Vaibhava**
People's Choice Song of the year	**Bangle Bangari: Ekka**



Actor Rachita Ram receives the 'Breakthrough Perfomance of the Year Award' from TPML Director Chaitanya Nettakallappa and Union Steel and Heavy Industries Minister H D Kumaraswamy at the programme.

Actor Sudeep in a candid conversation with Ravindra Bhat, Prajavani's executive editor, at the event.

Girish Kasaravalli receives lifetime achievement award

BENGALURU, DHNS

At the fourth edition of Prajavani Kannada Cine Sammana, veteran filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrating a remarkable career that has shaped the course of Kannada and Indian cinema.

Widely regarded as one of the leading voices of Indian parallel cinema, Kasaravalli has spent over four decades creating films that combine artistic excellence with deep social insight.

The award was presented by Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka and Industries Minister M B Patil. The Printers Mysore (Private) Limited Joint Managing Director K N Tilak Kumar and Director K N Shanth Kumar were present.

Reflecting on his unconventional journey into filmmaking, Kasaravalli, after receiving the award, said, "I was born in a small village and had no connection with cinema. I studied Pharmacy and was doing research when I came across an advertisement for the Film and Television Institute of India. I felt cinema was a powerful medium and decided to give it a try. Joining FTII was a great experience, and that is how my life in cinema began."

His debut feature film *Ghatashraddha* (1977) earned national acclaim and established him as a pioneering filmmaker. Looking back on its success, he said, "I could not have imagined the impact of *Ghatashraddha*. At that time, Kannada cinema had won very few national awards, so the recognition meant a great deal."

Over the years, Kasaravalli has directed acclaimed films such as *Tabarana Kathe*, *Thaayi Saheba*, *Dweepa*, *Naayi Neralu*, *Hasina*, *Gulabi Talkies* and *Kanasemba Kudureyaneri*, exploring themes of identity, caste, gender, tradition and social change. Despite opportunities to pursue mainstream cinema, he remained committed to his artistic vision. "There were many offers, but I felt my path was different," he said.

He also spoke about his approach to casting. "For each role, I envision a particular actor. It is different for every character. It is extremely rare that I have cast the same actors in multiple films," he added.

He acknowledged the support of his wife, late Vaishali, saying, "She has contributed to my films in many ways, both emotionally and intellectually." A recipient of numerous national film awards and international honours, Kasaravalli has played a pivotal role in bringing global recognition to Kannada cinema.

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BEYOND THE RECORD

WHAT
Planting
15 lakh plants in **12 hours**

LOCATIONS
41 sites Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) – West Bengaluru
12 sites Banashankari 6th Stage – South Bengaluru
55 sites Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout – North Bengaluru

TOTAL AREA
240 acres

PARTICIPANTS
50,000+ volunteers
One volunteer: 30 plants
Corporates, NGOs, institutions

WHY
To create dense green areas in 3-5 years

MONITORING
GIS mapping, geo-tagging, drone surveys

AFTER-CARE PLAN
Three-year maintenance programme

MODEL
Miyawaki-inspired high-density planting of fruit-bearing trees, native shade trees and medicinal plants (layers of shrubs, sub-trees, canopy trees)

Inside BDA's green Guinness dream

The ambitious 15-lakh-sapling Guinness record bid promises massive urban greening, but concerns remain on monitoring the plants and protecting them

SHREE D N

The Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) is eyeing recognition from Guinness World Records for planting 15 lakh saplings in 12 hours on June 27. More than 50,000 volunteers, including students, corporates, NGOs, and civic groups, will be part of the ambitious greening drive to create 240 acres of oxygen parks in the city, spread across three layouts, with a focus on native species.

"These saplings will be planted across the lake, nala buffer zones, parks, and public spaces in neighbourhoods such as Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Banashankari 6th Stage, and Dr Shivarama Karanth Layout," BDA Chairman N A Haris said in an interaction with the media on Friday.

Haris described the initiative that marks Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti as a people's movement to secure the city's environmental future.

BDA Commissioner Major P Manivannan said the initiative reflects the authority's commitment to nature-based urban solutions and bolsters Bengaluru's green cover. The aftercare plans, watering, fencing and monitoring would be coordinated with resident welfare associations and volunteers to improve survival rates, he added.

The plantations would be in Miyawaki style —high-density, layered plantations, not avenue trees. "It is because long-term maintenance is easier and because a large-scale plantation is required for the Guinness World Record attempt," said sources.

More than 340 native species have been selected for the drive. "The species selection has been carried out by experts from BDA's Forest Division in consultation with the Karnataka Forest Department. Species include native, rare and uncommon plants, herbs and trees suited to Bengaluru's ecology. Saplings are being procured through a transparent tender process, and adequate arrangements have been made to ensure both the availability and diversity required for the plantation drive," said a note from BDA.

A 1000-member team from Guinness World Records will be inspecting the activities on D-Day, capturing them and monitoring to ensure the drive adheres to world record activity protocols. The BDA website lists 23 corporate partners and 12 NGOs as partners in the effort.

The Guinness Record in the 'Most plants planted by a team in 12 hours (multiple venues)' category can give Brand Bengaluru visibility and publicity and earn public goodwill. It will also raise awareness of the need to quickly green urban areas to mitigate the urban heat island effect. However, "the real value comes only if a large percentage of those 15 lakh saplings survive and become trees over the next several years," said an expert who preferred anonymity.

Who funds the drive?

Haris told *DH* that budget estimates are currently unavailable because contributions are being made by various stakeholders and agencies, including the Forest Department, Police Department, Transport Department, Labour Department, NGOs and corporates. A consolidated budget will be estimated and released 30 days after the plantation drive, he added.

A source says this is because funding arrangements vary. Some NGOs may already have annual CSR agreements with corporates. In some cases, there may be separate MoUs between corporates and NGOs, and separate MoUs between NGOs and BDA. There is no single standard tripartite agreement structure across all participants, according to the source.

Organisers indicate that while there is no penalty clause, the MoUs contain a mandatory three-year maintenance requirement and a monitoring mechanism involving BDA's forest division, the Forest Department, and a monitoring panel.

BDA does not seem to be spending money on maintenance. "BDA will only provide the saplings and access to land. We have to maintain the plants for three years by mulching, de-weeding the area, and watering them. In case the BDA finds any problems, they have the right to terminate the agreement," says Ravindra T C, director of Indus Herbs, one of the partners of the plantation drive. Many other NGOs *DH* spoke to also admitted that maintenance will be funded through CSR.

Maintenance and monitoring

Volunteers will participate in the plantation activity, but long-term maintenance does not depend on them. Volunteers will geotag each sapling planted using their mobile devices, including an image, location, and other details. The tree receives a unique ID and can be viewed on a map. This would provide much-needed transparency for CSR and environmental projects and help create a digital forest inventory, according to Jayaani Bennheim of People's Planet, an environmental organisation specialised in geotagging trees. The organisation claims to have geotagged 2 lakh trees since 2024.

Tree species, planting date, planter/sponsor name, photographs, and growth updates are uploaded and updated in a database. This process helps identify, monitor, and track plantations over time. The organisation will maintain the database for 10 years, said Jayaani.

"Anyone with access to the database can locate the exact tree on a map and view its growth updates," she added.

Water worries

This year has been termed a super El Niño year, and monsoons have been playing hide-and-seek, with lower rainfall and harsher summers expected. Water availability is crucial for the survival of Miyawaki forests.

When asked about this, BDA sources said that experts from the Karnataka Forest Department were consulted well in advance during the planning. "Species selection, site preparation, plantation methodology, and maintenance planning have all been undertaken keeping local climatic conditions in mind. Comprehensive maintenance arrangements, including watering, monitoring, replacement planting where required, and plant protection measures, have been built into the three-year maintenance framework assigned to implementation partners," said a note.

Gurunandan Rao, who co-founded That's Eco Foundation, which will handle about 80 acres of plantation, says that enough water arrangements have been made. "While preparing the lands, we found three old wells which still have water. We have desilted them and prepared to take water. There are nalas where treated water from nearby sewage treatment plants will be released, and we will also have plantations adjacent to them. The BDA is also thinking of sanctioning borewells, but the talks are in an initial stage," he explained.

Deokant Payasi, co-founder of Saytrees, a Bengaluru-based NGO partnering with the BDA to plant, said that water demand will not compete with residential needs because these areas are not yet heavily populated. In Shivarama Karanth Layout, where Saytrees will coordinate planting, there are already functional borewells that will meet water demand, including treated water, he added.

Environmentalists cautious

Environmentalists welcomed the initiative but said cautious species selection and sustained maintenance can ensure lasting ecological benefits. Dattatreya T Devare, co-founder of Bangalore Environment Trust, stressed that the project's success should be measured by sapling survival rates rather than by the number of trees planted.

He noted that in previous plantation drives, there was little transparency or monitoring of survival rates. Several years ago, he filed an RTI with BDA seeking survival data but was unable to obtain meaningful information. At the time, even the forest department official overseeing the work had not maintained proper statistics, he added.

"Accountability is a main concern. The BDA should have clear agreements with the NGOs responsible for maintaining the plantations after planting. These agreements should specify monitoring mechanisms, responsibilities, and ideally link performance or funding to survival rates," he added. He said there needs to be clarity on the provisions of the memoranda of understanding between NGOs and the BDA, and on who will ultimately monitor and fund long-term maintenance.

He criticised the BDA's decision to disclose project expenditure details only after the plantation drive, arguing that this information should be publicly available beforehand. "BDA needs a dedicated organisational structure and sufficient staff to oversee survival monitoring, since agencies often cite manpower shortages as a reason for poor follow-up," he added.

"We do not mind if it is Miyawaki or any method, as long as they are implemented scientifically and maintained properly," Devare said.

'More volunteers needed'

Deokant Payasi said the long weekend would be a worry for volunteer presence. Since this is an opportunity for people and communities in the city to be part of a once-in-a-lifetime drive, he hoped more would participate. "We have got about 1000 volunteers, but we need 10,000 more," he added.

Individuals, NGOs, corporates, government bodies, educational and other organisations can register by logging in at https://greenbengalurubybda.in

Feedback:
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METRO

Beware: Fake cab apps targeting airport travellers

Cabbies mimic user interface of popular aggregator platforms to produce inflated bills

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Cab drivers at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) are using fake apps that mimic ride aggregator platforms and generate inflated fares, passengers allege.

A passenger travelling from the airport to Malleswaram earlier this month paid Rs 400 more than the fare shown on the app.

"I clearly remember booking the cab for about Rs 720 on Rapido. The driver's phone displayed Rs 1,110," said 38-year-old Prateek N.

Airport passengers report paying hundreds of rupees more than the fare shown on the app. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

"He claimed that this was because of the hiked-up parking fee at the airport and the traffic en route that the total fare had increased. Since I was in a hurry, I didn't argue with the driver and paid the amount. But later, when I checked the app, it displayed the original amount."

While BIAL, the airport operator, encourages passengers to opt for one of its eight authorised cab partners (OLA, Uber, Uber Black, Namma Yatri, Quick Ride, WTI Cabs, Airport Taxi and Blr Airport Taxi), riders have also flagged similar concerns with some of these platforms.

Another passenger who travelled from the airport to Electronics City last month booked a cab on Uber for Rs 1,330, but the driver claimed the total fare was over Rs 2,000.

The passenger alleged a scam after noticing discrepancies on the driver's phone screen.

While the scam was initially flagged last year, it has resurfaced since April. Users shared similar instances on X.

"There are a few drivers who are pushing this scam," said G Narayanaswamy, president, Karnataka Chalakara Okkuta.

"How it works is that they will book a ride on any regular app, start it with the OTP, and simultaneously, they will also start the ride on a second app, which shows doubled fares.

"These fake apps almost look the same as Uber and Rapido. Some also use made-up screenshots, which display high fares." He said the issue had come to the union's notice over the past few weeks and it had warned drivers against using such platforms.

Not limited to the airport: Rapido

A Rapido spokesperson said the company had received complaints about similar situations and that the problem was not limited to the airport.

"When it has come to our notice, we have investigated the matter, refunded the extra amount to the customer, and also taken strict action against the driver," the spokesperson said, urging passengers to go only by what the Rapido app displays on their phone.

While Uber did not say whether it had received similar complaints, a spokesperson said riders can seek support from the 24x7 helpline and get a response in less than 30 seconds for any fare discrepancies at the end of the trip.

HOW THE SCAM WORKS

- Riders book a trip on a genuine app, start it using the OTP, and simultaneously activate a second app.
- The second app shows a fake, doubled fare to mislead or justify overcharging.
- Scam apps closely mimic real platforms in design.
- Some apps even generate fabricated screenshots showing exaggerated fares to appear legitimate.
- Confuse riders and extract higher payments or justify unauthorised charges.

Raghunandan Murthy took office as the new managing director of the BMTC on Friday.

New BMTC MD takes charge

BENGALURU, DHNS: Raghunandan Murthy, a 2014-batch IAS officer, took office as the new Managing Director of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) on Friday.

He replaced Sivakumar KB, a 2010-batch IAS officer, who was transferred and posted as the Managing Director of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC).

Sivakumar departs from the BMTC in less than a year, as he was appointed only in October 2025. His predecessor, Ramachandran R, had helmed the BMTC for 21 months.

The reshuffling came days after BS Byrathi Suresh took charge as the state's transport minister, replacing Ramalinga Reddy.

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The Ganga Dolphin population has nearly doubled, conservation efforts for crocodiles and turtles have expanded, and over 205 lakh fish fingerlings have been released into Maa Ganga.

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A Greener Ganga, A Stronger Ecosystem
Afforestation across more than 33,000 hectares has strengthened the environment and enriched biodiversity along Maa Ganga.

A Transformational Leap in Wastewater Treatment
Treatment capacity has increased nearly 38 times, from 110 MLD to 4,153 MLD, significantly reducing the flow of polluted water into Maa Ganga.

A Historic Confluence of Faith and Cleanliness
At Prayagraj Mahakumbh 2025, more than 660 million devotees experienced the spiritual significance of a cleaner and rejuvenated Maa Ganga.

Leadership by Example
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the proceeds from the auction of his memorabilia to support the Namami Gange mission.

"Ganga is India's lifeline. Conserving Ganga means safeguarding India's future."
– Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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VIT up 94 spots to rank 597 in QS World University Rankings 2027

VIT University has climbed 94 places to secure the 597th position in the QS World University Rankings 2027, marking a significant rise from its 691st rank in 2026.

Released by global higher education analytics firm QS Quacquarelli Symonds, the rankings assess over 1,500 universities worldwide across key parameters including research, learning experience, employability, international engagement and sustainability.

Commenting on the achievement, VIT Chancellor Dr G. Viswanathan said, "VIT University's strong rise in the QS World University Rankings is a matter of great pride and reflects our sustained commitment to academic excellence, research and innovation."

VIT also performed strongly in sustainability, ranking 352nd globally and 7th in India in the QS Sustainability Rankings 2026. In the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026 for Engineering and Technology, the university is ranked 119th globally and 6th among Indian institutions.

"Through innovation in teaching and research, VIT aims to be among the world's top 200 universities," he added.

Curated by DH Brandspot

JD(S) petitions govt against Bidadi township

BENGALURU, DHNS: A delegation of the JD(S) leaders has urged the state government to drop the Bidadi township project.

The leaders, including MLC T A Sharavana, T N Javarayi Gowda, former MLC Thippeswamy, Ramesh Gowda and other, submitted a representation to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh on Friday urging the government to scrap the project considering the farmers' reluctance in parting with their lands for the project.

Hasten 'B' to 'A' Khata conversion, Yathindra tells officials

BENGALURU, DHNS: Urban Development Minister Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah on Friday urged officials to hasten the process of converting 'B' Khata properties into 'A' Khata.

Yathindra conducted a review meeting of 13 city corporations. He told officials that the grants from the 15th Finance Commission which have not been spent this year should be spent and used for the development of cities.

Conceding that there was a shortage of civic workers in all districts, the minister told officials that civic workers should be allotted as per the estimated population at present.

"Overall 97 Indira Canteens have been sanctioned in 13 city corporations. Of those, 93 are functional, while two each in Mangaluru and Bidar are not yet functional. They need to start soon, and the food quality must be checked time and again."

The minister also noted that there were grants of Rs 231 crore under Amrit Yojana —to rejuvenate 42 lakes, adding that the tenders should be called soon.

"Rs 463 crore is remaining in property tax, and that needs to be collected," he added.

D'sthala SIT begins mapping human skeletal remains

MANGALURU, DHNS: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Dharmasthala mass burial case has begun the crucial process of mapping and identifying the human skeletal remains recovered during exhumation.

A senior SIT source told *DH* that investigators have commenced a detailed examination of the skeletal remains unearthed from various locations during the exhumation carried out in Dharmasthala village. The process involves scientifically documenting, cataloguing and analysing every recovered bone fragment to establish the identities of the deceased.

The skeletal remains have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for detailed examination. Based on the preliminary forensic findings, the SIT has started cross-checking the remains with existing missing persons records.

Investigators are specifically focusing on cases involving individuals who had travelled to Dharmasthala and were subsequently reported missing. To facilitate this, the SIT is collecting and scrutinising data from the District Crime Record Bureau (DCRB). The source said the exercise aims to determine whether any of the recovered remains correspond to long-pending missing persons cases that may have gone unresolved for years.

As part of the effort to establish conclusive identities, the SIT has already collected blood samples from family members of several missing persons. These samples have been sent to the FSL for DNA profiling and comparison with the DNA extracted from the recovered skeletal remains.

Ex-MLA of Belur held for 'irregularities' in land grant

BELUR (HASSAN DISTRICT), DHNS: The CID Police from Bengaluru on Friday arrested former JD(S) MLA from Belur Assembly constituency K S Lingesh in connection with an alleged irregularities in the 2023 Bagair Hukum land allotment. He was produced before the Special Court for People's Representatives in Bengaluru.

Along with Lingesh, tahsildar Mohan Kumar, then revenue inspectors Nagaraju, Ningaraju and Udit, and village accountants Basappa, Raj Sab, Ankegowda, Sagar, Ravinayak and Lingaraju have also been arrested, according to officials.

The then tahsildar had written to the Sakleshpur Assistant Commissioner Pratik Boyal to review the land grants made from 2016 to 2020. The AC submitted a report to the deputy commissioner and the government stating that 2,750 acres were granted to 1,430 people.

Based on the AC's report on the irregularities, social activist from Kolar K C Rajanna lodged a complaint with the Belur Police, alleging that the government lands had been illegally granted, when Lingesh was the president of Belur taluk Bagair Hukum Committee. Based on the complaint the police had registered a case. Later, the case was handed over to the CID for probe in 2024.

Lingesh and others had moved the High Court seeking to quash the case registered against them. However, the petition came to be rejected. Later, the Special Court for People's Representatives too dismissed his anticipatory bail petition.

TN Assembly passes resolution against Mekedatu project

Urges Centre not to give approval to proposed dam

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Ratcheting up pressure, the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a resolution condemning Karnataka's "unilateral proposal" to build a reservoir in Mekedatu across River Cauvery, urging the Union Government not to grant approval to the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the proposed plan.

That Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay chose Mekedatu – an emotional and livelihood issue among farmers in Tamil Nadu – for the first resolution passed in the House after his government assumed charge last month is significant. He sent a definitive message that he won't compromise on Tamil Nadu's rights vis-a-vis inter-state water disputes.

By getting the resolution passed against the Karnataka government helmed by the Congress, whose five MLAs are crucial for his TVK dispensation, Vijay made a clear distinction between political support and the livelihood of farmers. Every party, including the Congress, spoke in favour of the resolution and voted for it. Tourism Minister S Rajesh Kumar from the national party termed the dam as "not just illegal one that robs Tamil Nadu's rights."

Mekedatu has been a bone of contention between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka for the past decade. The project, which Karnataka says aims to provide drinking water to Bengaluru, has shot into the limelight yet again following D K Shivakumar's ascension to the Chief Minister's chair. The project has long been a personal priority for Shivakumar, who once famously organized a padayatra to demand its execution.

The passing of a resolution in the Assembly also comes close on the heels of Shivakumar's assertion that Tamil Nadu cannot oppose the Mekedatu reservoir. The Vijay government was under pressure to show that it would protect the state's rights and not cave in to pressure from Karnataka, now ruled by his ally.

In his speech, the Chief Minister said the project violates the orders of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) and the Supreme Court, and asserted that no reservoir can be built across the Cauvery without the permission of basin states.

"This August House urges the Union government not to grant any form of approval, including technical and environmental clearances, to the Mekedatu Dam project proposed by the Government of Karnataka," the resolution said.

It further said the Cauvery issue is a highly sensitive matter between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and urged the Union government to advise the neighbouring state not to undertake the construction of a dam or any new water storage project in the Cauvery basin without the concurrence of the other basin states.

"The Central Water Commission should not examine, process, or grant approval to the Detailed Project Report submitted by the Government of Karnataka," the resolution added.

While Tamil Nadu believes the project will be detrimental to the interests of farmers in the Cauvery Delta region, who are entirely dependent on Cauvery water, Karnataka feels otherwise saying it will be beneficial to the neighbouring state.

Forest watcher injured in elephant attack

NARASIMHARAJAPURA, (CHIKKAMAGALURU DISTRICT), DHNS: A forest watcher sustained severe injuries after a wild elephant suddenly attacked him in the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary under the Hebbe Range, which borders Narasimharajapura taluk, on Friday.

The injured was identified as Harish, a watcher attached to the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. According to forest department sources, Harish was on a routine patrol inside the sanctuary on Friday afternoon when the jumbo, which had been standing concealed behind trees, unexpectedly charged and struck him with its trunk.

As a result, he suffered serious injuries. He was immediately shifted to taluk government hospital where he was given first aid. Later, Harish was shifted to a hospital in Shivamogga.

Dr Prabhu from Taluk hospital said, "Since he sustained severe injuries to the spine and both legs, he was given primary treatment here and later shifted to McGann Hospital in Shivamogga for further treatment."

NEET re-exam: Ban orders around exam centres tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: The city police have issued prohibitory orders around the NEET examination centres in the city. The NEET re-examination will be held on Sunday.

City police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh issued the order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) on Friday.

As per the order, prohibitory orders will be in effect within a 200-metre radius of the examination centres across the city. This is being done to ensure the exams are conducted smoothly and securely.

The order further stated that xerox shops, cyber centres, and computer centres operating in the prohibited area should be shut down.

CAUGHT UNAWARES

Motorcyclists speed on a road in Kuvempu Nagar as skies open up in Mysuru on Friday.
DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

High court bins plea against Section 38D of BDA Act

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka has dismissed a PIL petition challenging the constitutional validity of Section 38D of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Act.

The provision, introduced in 2020, relates to the allotment of BDA land in favour of the original owner or subsequent purchaser or an unauthorized occupant.

The petitioners, Vijayan Menon and others, contended that the provision is arbitrary as it enables the BDA to transfer public lands to illegal occupants without any basis. They argued that the provision places illegal occupants in a more advantageous position than the law-abiding citizens. They was further argued that in the absence of guidelines governing the exercise of statutory power, such power would be subject to arbitrariness.

The BDA, however, submitted that from 1945 till 2010, the City Improvement Trust Board (as it was then) and the BDA had acquired a vast extent of land and as many as 75,000 sites spread across various layouts were occupied unauthorisedly. It maintained that the scheme would not include a tenant, licencee or a land loser and that Section 38D also provides that the building in existence on the land and the settled possession should not be less than 12 years prior to the date of commencement of the BDA Act, 2020. The allottee must make payment towards the land at such a rate as specified and only such lands measuring up to a maximum of 4,000 sq ft could be allotted under Section 38D, the BDA submitted.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha observed that there is no merit in the contentions raised by the petitioners.

"..we find no merit in the contention that Section 38D of the BDA Act confers any unbridled or uncanalised power or is manifestly arbitrary. The challenge to the validity of Section 38-D of the BDA Act is, accordingly, rejected," the bench said.

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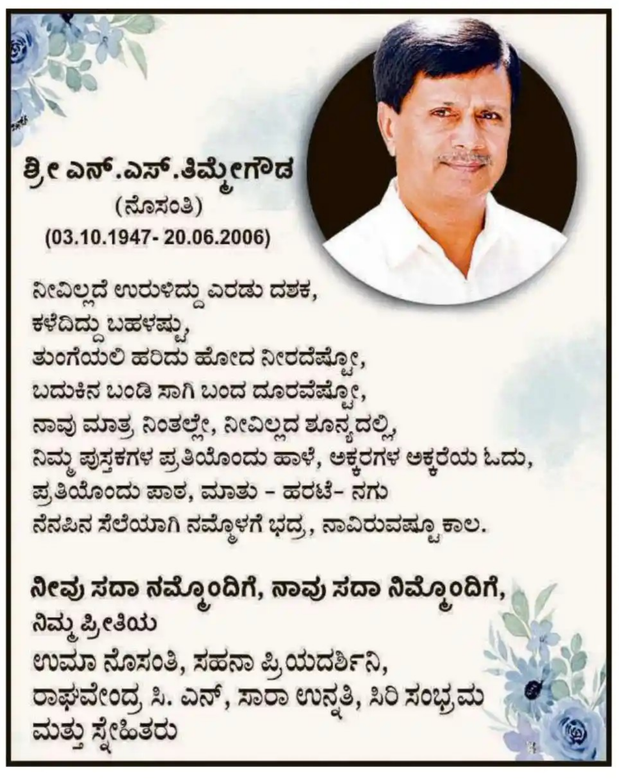

BUDA surveyor trapped by Lokayukta while taking Rs 3.5 lakh bribe

BALLARI, DHNS: The Lokayukta police on Friday caught Ballari Urban Development Authority (BUDA) surveyor and his assistant red-handed while taking a bribe of Rs 3,50,000 for an official favour.

Shantha-murthy

Mohammad Sajid

Based on the complaint, the Lokayukta police arrested BUDA surveyor Shanthamurthy and his assistant Mohammad Sajid.

Ereshi, a realtor, had lodged a complaint with the Lokayukta police alleging that the surveyor and his assistant had demanded a bribe of Rs 3.5 lakh to process the applications moved for approval of the designs for single-site layout and a multi-site layout. The complainant had obtained the GPA from the owners of the land owners to seek BUDA approval for the designs of the layouts.

The Lokayukta police laid a trap and accordingly caught the officials when Mohammad Sajid was taking the bribe amount on behalf of the surveyor.

The Lokayukta team, led by SP N Vasudevaram, comprising DySPs Siddappa Bilagi and Sachin Chaluvadi and PI Suresh Bhavimani and staff, conducted the operation.

Type 2 diabetes patients increasingly diagnosed with liver fibrosis: Lancet Study

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A Lancet South Asia Study screened over 9,000 Indians and found a connection between people with Type 2 diabetes and liver fibrosis.

For patients with Type 2 diabetes, the liver has now emerged as the fourth vulnerable organ, alongside the eyes, heart and kidneys, the study found.

According to the study, one in four individuals with Type 2 diabetes has clinically significant liver scarring. One in 20 Type 2 Diabetes patients has probable cirrhosis despite showing no outward liver symptoms.

Dr Sushrutha C S, senior consultant, Department of Gastroenterology, said: "There has been a significant increase in the number of cases of people with Type 2 diabetes being diagnosed with liver issues. The main factors here are longstanding uncontrolled diabetes. The awareness is increasing, but there is a major gap as people do not consider the liver to be a target organ."

Doctors noted that the main reason for the growing disease is that liver conditions are usually asymptomatic compared to other organs that have weakened due to diabetes.

"Unlike retinopathy, which is a loss of vision or kidney disease, which can be identified by urine and blood tests, liver fibrosis might not show symptoms until it becomes serious. Another problem is that despite having serious liver fibrosis, some people may have normal or only slightly increased liver enzymes. Hence, the illness gets overlooked during standard medical examinations," said Dr Akhil Deshmukh, consultant, Hepatology and Liver Transplant.

"Potentially, if people remain undiagnosed at large, it will turn into a major health concern. Managing liver diseases is expensive, as it can progress into liver cirrhosis and failure. Apart from liver problems, advanced fibrosis is also linked to high cardiovascular risk," he explained.

Speaking about the more vulnerable population, Dr Kiran Chandrashekar, consultant, Hepatology, said: "People who are overweight or alcoholics are treated as the vulnerable population. Recently, this has been wrong. Even people with a normal weight and not addicted to any kind of substances are being diagnosed with liver issues."

Doctors are routinely using the FIB-score, a diagnostic tool to estimate the risk of patients progressing into fibrosis.

Dr Pramila Kalra, senior consultant, Department of Endocrinology, said: "The FIB-4 score is a very important diagnostic tool that helps estimate the risk of patients progressing to fibrosis. The score requires two liver enzyme values, SGPT and SGOT, along with the platelet count. This helps us understand whether a patient is at higher risk of fibrosis."

The FIB-4 score should ideally be calculated during OPD visits for all patients with Type 2 diabetes, she added.

Ashtalakshmi witnessing rapid development
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12 Saal Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-Kalyan ke
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Mysuru Corpn closes 9 popular rooftop restaurants

MYSURU, DHNS: Following a recent fire mishap in a rooftop pub which claimed two lives in Mysuru, the officials of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) inspected 31 rooftop hotels, bars and restaurants and have closed nine of them.

According to MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif, notices have been issued to 16 establishments, while three others have been directed to implement the necessary fire safety measures.

The authorities verified whether the establishments have obtained licence and necessary permits and adopted fire safety and public safety measures

Lack of periodic review led to closure of rowdy sheets: KSPCA sources

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The closure of rowdy sheets by the Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority (KSPCA) was largely due to the police's failure to conduct mandatory periodic reviews and maintain records justifying continued surveillance of the individuals concerned, sources familiar with the proceedings said.

The issue triggered a controversy after Home Minister Priyank Kharge described the closure of rowdy sheets as "nonsense" and sought a review of the decision.

Officials and legal experts, however, contend that the authority acted strictly in accordance with guidelines laid down by the High Court of Karnataka on the opening and continuation of rowdy sheets.

The KSPCA is led by retired high court judge Justice N K Sudhindra Rao. It has Devajyoti Ray as member secretary and Mohan Kumar Danappa as a member.

The issue gained traction after the KSPCA on May 19 ordered setting aside the rowdy sheet registered against Sunil Kumar alias 'Silent' Sunil at the Amruthahalli police station on November 26, 2014. Another rowdy, Rohith alias 'Onte' Rohit, got relief on May 25.

Sunil is linked with at least over a dozen cases and was one of the prime suspects in the 2003 murder of Bekkinakannu Rajendra.

In 2022, he reportedly shared the stage with some BJP leaders. Rohit is one of Sunil's close associates and has been linked with murders and contract killings.

Sources in the authority told *DH* that they found that in several cases, police stations failed to carry out the mandatory review of rowdy sheets every two years.

The police were also unable to produce records showing that the activities of the listed individuals were being regularly monitored — a key requirement for retaining a person's name in the rowdy register.

The court guidelines make it clear that a rowdy sheet cannot continue indefinitely.

Supporting evidence

The police are required to periodically assess whether a person still poses a threat to public peace and order and whether continued surveillance is warranted.

Such assessments must be backed by documentary evidence, including surveillance reports, intelligence inputs, involvement in criminal activities and other material demonstrating the need for continued monitoring.

During the hearings, the authority repeatedly sought records from the police to establish compliance with these requirements.

In several cases, however, the police failed to furnish adequate documentation, prompting the authority to conclude that continuing the rowdy sheets was legally unsustainable.

Sources in the authority also said that the police might challenge the closure orders before the high court, but there was no provision to keep the authority's orders in abeyance while seeking a review.

Any attempt to continue surveillance despite the closure could invite legal challenges from the affected individuals, they noted.

"In many such cases, the high court is likely to uphold the authority's decision because the orders are based on the very guidelines framed by the court," a source familiar with the proceedings said.

The controversy comes at a time when the government is emphasising stronger action against habitual offenders and organised criminal networks across the state.

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Bengaluru leads India's tea revolution

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RTD TEA
2 Peach Tea saw a staggering 62x growth - India's fastest-growing tea flavour!
3 Wellness teas grew 26% YoY, driven by Tulsi, Green Tea and Blue Pea Tea.
4 Bhubaneswar emerged as India's fastest-growing tea city with 64% YoY growth!
5 Adrak Chai remains India's most-loved tea flavour across major cities.
6 Kombucha emerged among India's five fastest growing tea trends.
7 Matcha is stepping into India's tea culture!
8 Bengaluru leads India's tea obsession, followed by Mumbai and Hyderabad.
10 Chai-time habits India can't quit!
SUN

Bengaluru has emerged as India's most tea-obsessed city, reflecting a broader transformation underway in the country's tea-drinking habits where traditional chai is increasingly sharing space with ready-to-drink beverages, wellness teas and globally inspired flavours.

According to an analysis of tea orders placed on quick-commerce platform Instamart between June 2025 and June 2026 across more than 130 cities, Ready-to-Drink (RTD) tea was the fastest-growing category, registering a 109 per cent year-on-year growth.

The data suggests that Indian consumers, particularly younger urban buyers, are embracing convenience-led and health-focused beverage options while continuing to remain loyal to conventional tea varieties.

The study found that Bengaluru topped the country in overall tea consumption, followed by Mumbai and Hyderabad.

At the same time, smaller cities are driving some of the fastest growth in demand, with Bhubaneswar recording a 64 per cent rise in tea orders, followed by Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi.

One of the most striking shifts has been the growing popularity of fruit-infused teas. Peach Tea emerged as India's fastest-growing flavour, recording a staggering 62-fold increase over the previous year. Other rapidly expanding categories included Blue Pea Tea, Tulsi Tea, Green Tea and Kombucha, highlighting a growing consumer preference for functional beverages and wellness-oriented products.

Industry observers say the trend reflects changing lifestyles, greater health awareness and increasing exposure to international beverage trends. Yet, despite the experimentation, India's tea culture remains firmly rooted in tradition.

Adrak chai continues to dominate as the country's favourite tea, followed by plain black tea, elaichi tea, green tea and masala chai. Ginger tea featured among the most-ordered varieties across every major city, underlining its enduring popularity across regions and age groups.

The findings suggest that India is witnessing the emergence of a dual tea market. On one hand, consumers continue to cherish the ritual of a traditional cup of chai; on the other, they are increasingly exploring modern formats that offer convenience, flavour innovation and perceived health benefits.

Another interesting trend is the growing preference for tea purchases during weekends. Sunday emerged as the biggest tea-shopping day, followed by Saturday and Thursday, indicating that tea consumption is becoming closely linked with at-home leisure and lifestyle habits.

For India's vast tea industry, the message is clear: while the country's love affair with chai remains intact, the definition of tea itself is expanding rapidly. From roadside adrak chai to bottled peach tea and kombucha, India's tea market is entering one of its most dynamic and experimental phases in decades.

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Council: Five more positions set to go vacant

BENGALURU, DHNS: Five more Legislative Council positions, nominated by the Governor, will become vacant in July.

The outgoing nominated MLCs are A H Vishwanath, Bharathi Shetty, Shantharam Siddi, Talwar Sabanna and Ramesh Babu.

The Governor's nominees are usually achievers in various fields such as social service, arts, sports and so on.

It is learnt that several Congress leaders have started lobbying to occupy these five positions.

On Thursday, Congress gained a majority in the 75-member Council after winning five out of seven seats for which an election was held.

Congress now has 39 MLCs, BJP - 28, JD(S) - six, one independent and one chairperson.

Cross-voting: BJP forms fact-finding panel to uncover truth

Party will act tough against 'Mir Sadiqs', says Vijayendra

BENGALURU, DHNS

Following the shocking cross-voting by some BJP MLAs during elections on Thursday to elect seven members to the Legislative Council, the BJP on Friday formed a three-member fact-finding committee to uncover the "truth and facts."

The three-member committee comprises MLC C T Ravi, BJP state vice president N Mahesh and Hubli-Dharwad Central MLA Mahesh Tenginkai. The committee has been asked to submit its report by June 25.

While it's clear that at least 3 BJP and 4 JD(S) MLAs cross-voted, and one BJP MLA cast an invalid vote in favour of the Congress, doubts remain on whether four votes for Congress' fifth candidate Vinay Karthik were by BJP or JD(S) lawmakers.

Speaking to reporters, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra said: "There have been 6-7 cross votes from the JD(S) and at least 4-5 cross votes from the BJP as per our information. In this situation, I want to say that ours is a national party, and there is no question of pardoning those who have cross-voted. We have some information about who are involved in cross-voting."

B Y VIJAYENDRA
BJP state president

"There is a limit for everything. There have been discussions about differences within the BJP. Workers are exasperated. If elected representatives, legislators who have won on the BJP ticket, go to such an extent, we need to draw a line. Will discuss with the national president.

Amid talk that BJP National President Nitin Nabin had summoned Vijayendra, the BJP state president said he had sought an appointment with Nabin to speak about the current political developments in the state and the cross-voting in the Legislative Council (elections).

"I will go either today or Monday, depending on when he gives time," he added.

"The party will seriously consider the issue of Mir Sadiqs and take action against them," Vijayendra said.

Mir Sadiq was a minister who betrayed Tipu Sultan in the fourth Anglo-Mysore War, leading to the defeat of the Mysore Kingdom and the Sultan's death on the battlefield on May 04, 1799.

During the day, the names of seven BJP MLAs, including first-timers, surfaced as cross-voters. It was suspected that they had been lured through constituency grants and Congress tickets in the upcoming 2028 Assembly elections.

Responding to this, Vijayendra accused the Congress of "floating names" of those who could've cross-voted.

He said the Congress was trying to create internal issues within the BJP, adding that the saffron party won't be affected by it.

JD(S) unlikely to act against cross-voting MLAs

BENGALURU, DHNS

After four of the party's MLAs crossvoted in the Council elections on Thursday, Karnataka JD(S) president and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Friday chaired a meeting of the party MLAs to take stock of the situation.

Of the party's 18 MLAs, all but one – senior leader and former minister G T Devegowda – were in attendance at the meeting.

Those participating in the meeting are learnt to have alleged that five, and not four, of the party's MLAs crossvoted in the Council elections.

'No action for now'

Sources said that the JD(S) had decided not to initiate action against those who crossvoted, for now.

"Kumaraswamy expressed his disappointment with those who crossvoted, and asked them to remember what the party had given them," one source said.

Although aware of the identities of those who crossvoted, Kumaraswamy reportedly did not take names.

"Some of the legislators have succumbed to the temptation of the developmental funds offered by the ruling party, while few others chose to crossvote for personal reasons. Kumaraswamy appealed to them to stay with the party, and sought to convince them that the NDA would come to power in 2028," another source said.

Some leaders, however, are learnt to have sought disciplinary action against those who betrayed the party.

Interacting with reporters after the meeting, JD(S) Floor Leader in the Assembly C B Suresh Babu said, "We discussed the crossvoting controversy in detail. Some of us have demanded action against those who betrayed the party. After a detailed discussion, we have left it to the Karnataka JD(S) president to decide."

Babu opined that only four of the party's MLAs crossvoted. Blaming the Congress for the turn of events, Babu added, "We don't suspect anyone. But the truth will be revealed one day. It was the Congress that indulged in horse trading, and its leaders will themselves reveal the truth."

'One-on-one meetings'

Meanwhile, party supremo and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda is learnt to have told Kumaraswamy to hold one-on-one meetings withall the MLAs, to understand what prompted them to crossvote.

"But Kumaraswamy refused to hold these meetings, which he felt would not serve any purpose," a source said.

H D Kumaraswamy.

Not surprised, says HDK

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H D Kumarswamy said he was not surprised by the cross-voting by four JD(S) MLAs in the elections to the Legislative Council election, held on Thursday, reports DHNS from Mysluru

"I know their future plans too. I am mentally prepared for it. If they quit, Gen Z people will enter the party. I have decided to give opportunities to youngsters," he said. Kumaraswamy was speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Friday.

Kumaraswamy said that cross-voting has conveyed him the message that he should not be trusting all the people.

Regarding MLA G T Devegowda, Kumaraswamy said, "He has put both his feet outside the party. I have already made my stand clear. Former prime minister H D Deve Gowda tried to retain him as he has overconfidence on some people. I respected it once. But now, my stand is clear".

Ensure Tata Power forms are available in Kannada, KDA chief urges KERC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kannada Development Authority (KDA) chairperson Purushottama Bilimale has urged the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) to mandate that all documents submitted by Tata Power for a parallel electricity distribution licence be made available in Kannada.

In a letter addressed to the KERC chairman, Bilimale expressed disappointment at the regulatory body's failure to ensure these public documents were available in the regional language.

He noted that the application forms, annexures and related information dossiers submitted by the company are currently available in English, sidelining the linguistic interests of a vast majority of Kannadigas.

"Any organisation seeking to operate in Karnataka must respect the local language, culture, and linguistic rights as part of its social responsibility. Tata Power's negligence in this regard is a direct infringement on the linguistic rights of the people of Karnataka," Bilimale stated in the letter.

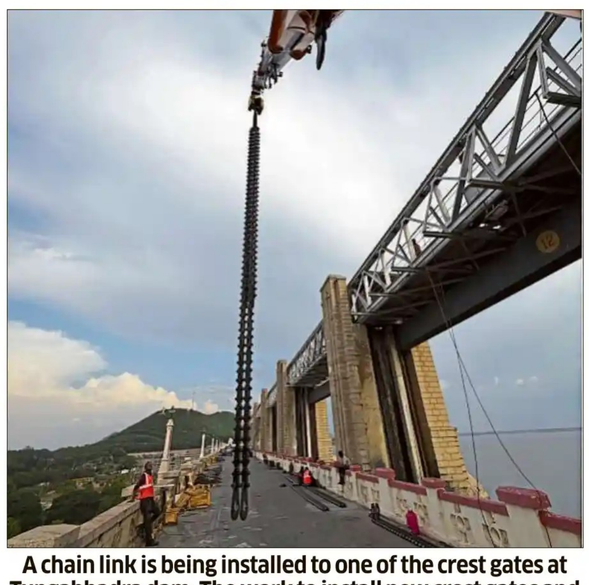
The KDA chief also raised objections to an ongoing door-to-door data collection drive being conducted by representatives of the private firm.

He pointed out that the survey forms used by the company to collect consumer information regarding electricity supply are exclusively in English.

"This has created a helpless situation where ordinary citizens are unable to understand the clauses, purpose or long-term implications of the documents they are signing," Bilimale said.

Calling upon the public to remain vigilant, the KDA chairperson urged citizens to demand that all forms and data sheets be provided in Kannada before parting with their information.

THE LAST LINK



A chain link is being installed to one of the crest gates at Tungabhadra dam. The work to install new crest gates and chain links was completed on Friday. The authorities took up Rs 51-crore modernisation following the collapse of gate 19 in August 2024. Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, his Andhra Pradesh and Telangana counterparts and Union ministers will attend the inauguration of the newly installed gates at the dam site, near Hosapete, on June 25.

Consider distilleries' plea for increased ethanol procurement, HC tells oil companies

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court of Karnataka has directed the state-owned Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) to consider the representation of Vinp Distilleries and Sugars Limited, Shiggaon, Haveri district, for enhancement of procurement of ethanol.

The petitioner-company is a dedicated ethanol plant and engaged in the supply of denatured anhydrous ethanol among other allied products.

The petitioner stated that the unit was established exclusively for the purpose of supplying ethanol to Oil Marketing Companies - HPCL, BPCL and IOCL.

On September 23, 2025, the OMCs issued a tender notification for the supply of 1050 crore liters of denatured anhydrous ethanol for ethanol supply year 2025-2026. The company contended that it was allotted the quantity of 3.92 crore liters supply of ethanol as against the allocation in the bid for 9.26 crore liters.

The company submitted that not permitting complete supply of ethanol is arbitrary and causes loss considering the huge amount of investment in the dedicated ethanol plant.

It was further stated that since 2021 whenever OMCs floated expression of interest and consequent long-term agreement was entered into, the plant's complete capacity was allowed to be supplied. On the other hand, the OMCs argued that it is purely a contractual matter and that a writ petition is not maintainable.

JUSTICE M NAGAPRASANNA
K'taka HC judge

"Dedicated ethanol plants, which have hitherto supplied ethanol exclusively to the OMCs and which are contractually prohibited from either manufacturing anything else or supplying ethanol to any third party, cannot now be relegated to the short end of the stick, thereby visiting them with grave and manifest prejudice.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that the petitioner-company had a legitimate expectation of continuance of the prevailing policy. The expectation has arisen directly from the agreement itself and the consistent past conduct of the OMCs.

The court further pointed out that ethanol is admittedly required, and the present notification seeks procurement of 1,500 crore litres of ethanol.

Udupi homestay raided, ganja seized

UDUPI, DHNS: Seven persons, including the owner and an employee of an unauthorised homestay, were arrested after Malpe police raided a homestay near Thottam Church in Thenkanidiyoor village of Udupi taluk and seized MDMA, ganja, mobile phones and other articles allegedly linked to drug consumption and distribution.

Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar said the raid was conducted after receiving credible information that narcotic substances were being illegally stored at a homestay with the intention of selling them to the public.

BJP national prez summons BYV, Ashoka for explanation

NEW DELHI, DHNS

BJP national president Nitin Nabin has summoned Karnataka BJP chief B Y Vijayendra, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, and party's general secretary incharge for Karnataka Radha Mohan Das Agarwal to Delhi on June 23 to seek explanation over large-scale cross-voting in the state Legislative Council elections.

The BJP top leadership has taken serious note of the indiscipline, and the June 23 meeting is expected to result in organisational measures to prevent future breaches.

In the first major electoral test for the Congress government under Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, the ruling party on Thursday won five of the seven MLC seats, while the BJP secured two. The JD(S) drew a blank.

Congress polled 151 votes, well above its own strength of 134-135 MLAs in the Assembly. This surplus enabled it to win a fifth seat - Vinay Karthik Prakash - comfortably.

While Congress had enough numbers to win four seats on its own, the fifth was secured through cross-voting.

The JD(S) candidate received only 14 votes despite having 18 MLAs and an understanding that three BJP legislators would support him. The BJP's two candidates together received just 56 votes against the party's strength of around 64.

Preliminary reports suggest at least three BJP MLAs and four to eight JD(S) MLAs cross-voted for Congress candidates, with one BJP vote declared invalid.

The cross-voting has embarrassed the BJP high command and highlighted cracks within the NDA alliance in Karnataka. The party had directed some MLAs to back the JD(S) candidate for the final seat, but that arrangement failed.

Following the results, Congress's strength in the 75-member Legislative Council has risen from 34 to 39, while the BJP has 29 members, JD(S) has six, and there is one independent.

Congress leaders called the victory a sign of dissatisfaction and weak leadership within the opposition.

The outcome provides an early boost to Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who recently took over from Siddaramaiah.

The elections were held to fill seven seats falling vacant on June 30.

Act against anti-party elements: Khuba

BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after 11 BJP and JD(S) MLAs crossvoted in favour of the Congress party in the Council elections, former Union Minister and BJP leader Bhagawant Khuba wrote to the saffron party's Karnataka president B Y Vijayendra, setting down the reason for the party MLAs' conduct.

Many incidents had prompted the MLAs to crossvote, claimed Khuba in his letter.

"It's no secret that during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, there was opposition (from within) to the candidates the party fielded in many constituencies. Defending such individuals, and not initiating any action against them is among the reasons that has led to crossvoting," wrote Khuba.

The timing of Khuba's letter assumes significance given that a section of the Karnataka BJP is unhappy with Vijayendra for his alleged failure to take everyone along, besides his tendency to take decisions unilaterally.

In fact, Khuba's defeat in the Lok Sabha polls from Bidar was widely attributed to infighting within the BJP.

Khuba further claimed that some BJP legislators had intimated their followers about their intention to switch parties ahead of the elections. Accusing legislators of embarrassing the party, Khuba sought to know why such leaders had neither been questioned nor controlled.

"In the past three years, several legislators have been cosying up to the Congress, forsaking the party's ideology for their own selfish ends. Since no action has been taken against such people, workers have distanced themselves from party activities and programmes. In many cases, people are being hired and projected as party workers," Khuba wrote.

Urging Vijayendra to act against 'anti-party' elements, Khuba called on the former to provide opportunities to honest people.

Steps taken to address issues raised by MoEF: NMDC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) has said it has taken steps to address the issues raised by the Union Environment Ministry regarding the firm's mining operation in Ballari district's Sandur.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) had issued a show-cause notice to the company raising 27 questions over the company's failure to comply with many conditions stipulated when environment clearance was issued in 2004.

Among the multiple issues raised, reported by *DH*, was NMDC's failure to submit a comprehensive progressive green belt development plan with year-wise break up as specified in 2004 and the failure to obtain approval from authorities for the wildlife conservation plan. Activists had described the 22-year delay in compliance as glaring violations of the rules.

In a written statement, the company said a 7.5 metre-wide greenbelt has been developed along the mine lease boundary.

It said extensive plantation activities have been taken up with about 94.5 hectares under green belt development with over 1.42 lakh plants.

Further, it said a wildlife conservation plan was submitted to the Karnataka Forest Department in 2020.

Dharwad, Kolar district courts receive hoax bomb threat calls

DHARWAD, DHNS: District courts in Dharwad, Davangere and Kolar received either bomb threat calls, or e-mails, all of which turned out to be a hoax, on Friday.

The e-mail sent to the Kolar District Court warned that the bomb on the premises had been activated and it would explode at any time. However, a thorough search of the premises found no signs of any explosive material.

Meanwhile, the hoax call was placed to the administrative office of the Dharwad District Court. The caller informed the court officials that multiple bombs had been planted at various spots across the premises, which could explode anytime. The court officials immediately alerted the police, who launched a search for the bombs.

Judges, advocates and petitioners were evacuated from the court premises, while a dog squad was pressed into service to assist the cops in their search. With the search unearthing no trace of suspicious substances, the call was declared a hoax.

Similarly, an e-mail sent to the Davangere District Court warned that the bomb on the premises was set to explode at 2 pm. The court authorities immediately informed the police, who arrived at the complex with a dog squad, and personnel from the bomb detection and disposal squad. The court was promptly evacuated and a search launched.

The police confirmed that the e-mail was a hoax. Furthermore, they have learnt that the e-mail, written in Kannada, was sent from Tamil Nadu.

This is the third time in under a year that the Dharwad District Court has received a hoax threat.

Meanwhile, police said that they had launched an investigation to nab the miscreants who placed the hoax call.

'First charge provision under EPF & MP Act only over assets of establishment'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The first charge provided under section 11(2) of The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Miscellaneous Provisions (MP) Act to recover the dues is on the assets of the establishment and not the individual/separate assets of the partner of a firm, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde said that while the first charge under section 11(2) prevails over the security interest under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, it is confined to the asset of the establishment and does not extend to the separate asset of the employer.

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had filed the petition against Axis Bank over the rejection of its claim of first charge.

Devki Designs, a Bengaluru-based partnership firm, owed provident fund dues related to the period between September 2013 and March 2015.

The bank advanced a loan to the firm and one of the partners had offered his property as security for the loan.

In June 2018, EPFO claimed the first charge after the property of a partner had been attached and auctioned by the bank.

The bank argued that the first charge is only over the assets of the establishment and not over the assets of the partner of the firm. In the case at hand, the auctioned property was not the property of the firm but a separate property of the partner, the bank submitted.

The court noted that in a situation where the assets of the firm and the assets of the partners are the same, then the first charge over those assets of the partners which are brought into the stock of the firm is available to recover the dues under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act.

"In the instant case, the partner of the firm had mortgaged his property as security for the loan advanced to the firm by the bank. Thus, the bank had a prior claim and interest over the mortgaged property. There are no materials to take a view that the property of the partner was treated as the asset of the firm. Merely because the partner of a partnership firm offered his property as security for the loan availed by the firm, that does not render the separate property as the property of the firm. Thus, the petitioner cannot claim first charge over the property of the partner, which is auctioned to recover the dues of the bank," Justice Anant Ramanath Hegde said.

3 held for creating, circulating obscene visuals of actor

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Cyber Command on Friday announced the arrest of three people who allegedly created and circulated obscene visuals of actor Rukmini Vasanth using Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The arrested are Ravikumar, 24, from Chilakamukhi village in Bagalkot district; Chandrakanth, 33, from Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru; and Ranjith, 25, from Nagasandra, Bengaluru.

The Cyber Command investigators acted after a case was registered at Cyber Crime Police Station in Bengaluru recently following a complaint by Rukmini, popularly known for her role in the movie Kantara: A Legend Chapter-1.

During the investigation, Cyber Command officials found that objectionable images and videos created using AI had been circulated on social media "with the intention of portraying the complainant in a derogatory manner".

A special team was set up and based on the evidence collected, the three suspects were arrested. From them, three mobile phones used to commit the alleged offence were seized.

State sees sharp rise in tobacco use in past decade

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Tobacco consumption in Karnataka has risen sharply over the past decade, making it the highest-consuming state in South India.

Despite a ban on gutkha, its use has surged in both rural and urban areas, according to the recent Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) report.

Experts say many users have shifted to refined tobacco and pan masala as alternatives.

In 2011-12, only 1.1% rural and 0.88% urban population was consuming gutkha. However, in 2023-24, nearly 25.5% of rural and 16.30% of urban people are addicted to gutkha, the report says.

Realising the harmful effects of gutkha, the state government banned its sales in 2013 along with other forms of flavoured chewing tobacco, zarda and khaini. However, gutkha consumers have shifted to alternative forms by consuming refined tobacco and pan-masala mix, which give them similar high as gutkha.

The report also highlights that along with gutkha, Karnataka is also witnessing an increase in consumption of leaf tobacco and cigarettes in both rural and urban Karnataka, while consumption of bidis and other tobacco products has witnessed a slight decrease.

The report prepared by the Economic Advisory Committee to the PM states that in 2011-12, if 52% of Karnataka's rural population was consuming one or the other form of tobacco products, it shot up to 65.6% in 2023-24.

In urban areas, tobacco consumption increased from 29% to 47% during the same period.

Kalaburagi-based economist Sangeetha Kattimani says: "What is worrying is that poor families are spending more on tobacco, pan and intoxicants than on education."

Open defecation prevalent in only 79 villages in state: Govt

16 of 31 districts do not have plastic waste processing units

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka has reported about 60% of the 26,484 villages as model villages for implementing rules to manage solid waste and sewage while almost all villages have been declared open defecation free (ODF).

As per the analysis of the data submitted to the Centre's the Swachh Bharat Mission project, the state government has stated that the number of ODF villages increased from 1,688 in April 2022 to 26,405, effectively limiting the problem of open defecation to 79 villages.

Further, 15,789 or 59.61% villages have been declared as model villages.

"As many as 11,434 of these villages have been verified by the ground truthing cell," the state government has said in a separate affidavit filed before the National Green Trbunal.

Data from the Swacch Bharat Mission claims that the villages have met the criteria of household access to toilets, implementing the waste management and achieving the benchmark of visual cleanliness.

The state government has informed that the number of open defecation-free villages has increased from 1,688 in April 2022 to 26,405 as of June 2026. DH FILE PHOTO

To a question, a source in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department acknowledged that constructing a toilet does not end open defecation.

"It is true there are cases where infrastructure gaps such as lack of toilets or water supply are a problem. However, the real challenge is bringing changes in the attitude of the people who are refusing to use the toilets," the source added.

Plastic waste threat

As per the data, 16 of the 31 districts do not have plastic waste processing units. The Western Ghats districts of Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru and Hassan do not have plastic waste processing centre.

An activist noted that almost all of these districts are known for their tourist hotspots that bring lakhs of people every year. "During peak tourism months, tonnes of plastic waste is dumped every day in places like Gokarna and Murdeshwar. Most of it flows to the ocean as the local bodies are not equipped to handle such waste," the activist noted.

Other districts without plastic waste processing centres are Chamarajanagar, Chikkaballapur, Chitradurga, Davangere, Gadag, Haveri, Koppal, Raichur, Udupi, Vijayanagar, Vijayapura and Yadgir.

By contrast, Bengaluru Urban (39 centres), Bengaluru Rural (32) and Mysuru (25) have most of the processing centres.

SC: Citizens have fundamental right to safe footpaths

Footpaths, From Page 1

The verdict is expected to have far-reaching implications for urban planning, road safety and pedestrian infrastructure across the country, potentially compelling authorities to prioritise footpaths in both urban and rural areas.

The judgment came on a civil appeal filed by Maniyar Iliyaz alias Shaik Riyaz, who lost his five-year-old son in a tragic accident.

The father was walking his child to a neighbourhood school around 9 am when a tanker lorry struck the boy from behind, crushing him. The child succumbed to his injuries.

"Accidents like this continue to occur, perhaps they are inevitable till we restructure our rights regime as regards access to roads and recognise their correlative duties," the bench observed.

The court described walking as the "simplest of the simple human activity" deeply embedded in Indian culture, freedom struggle and everyday life.

It noted that the Motor Vehicles Act has often undermined pedestrians' rights by prioritising motor transport, leading to unsafe or non-existent footpaths.

"While the right to walk is inextricably connected to life, our Constitution recognises and guarantees it as a fundamental right," the bench said, lamenting that "wheels eclipsed our imagination" in urban planning.

The court directed its registry to send copies of the judgment to the Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs, Rural Development, and Road Transport and Highways, as well as to the Law Commission, for framing appropriate legal mechanisms.

On the compensation aspect, the bench enhanced the amount payable to the appellant-father to Rs 11,44,628, setting aside the high court's reduction, and directed payment within two months.

Cauvery basin green cover: NGT warns K'taka, TN, Kerala for ignoring orders

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has warned Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala that it will pass a suo motu order if they do not file their response to a case about the Cauvery basin losing 12,850 sqkm of green cover in 50 years.

The NGT registered the case following a media report that between 1965 and 2016, the natural vegetation on 12,850 sqkm of land in the Cauvery basin has been lost. Areas that suffered adverse changes included Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Nagarahole National Park and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Tribunal's Southern Zone bench has been hearing the case since March 2024. Since July 2024, the tribunal has taken up and adjourned the matter in nine hearings, often directing the state governments to furnish the information in the matter.

Last week, when the matter came up once again, a bench of Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana and expert-member Prashant Gargava took objection to states not complying with the previous orders. "Despite the passage of two years, none of the respondents has filed response. As a last chance, the states of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are directed to file their respective reports, failing which orders would be passed suo motu," the order said, posting the matter to August 18.

Metro Pink Line full corridor...

Metro, From Page 1

Gowda, was blunt in his assessment of BMRCL, saying it had never met or even come close to meeting a deadline since the foundation stone for the first metro line was laid 25 years ago. At the meeting, he pulled up BMRCL officials and said the delays were inexplicable. "This culture has to change. This is an engineering challenge... there's nothing impossible in engineering."

Criticising worksite mismanagement, Gowda added, "Your contractors take it for granted to take as much space, cause as much disruption and for as long as they want. And you don't enforce worksite management. Instead of three or four years, you're taking six or seven years (to complete a metro line)."

Later, speaking to reporters, he said metro construction had unnecessarily occupied road space, while debris and materials dumped at sites had contributed to traffic congestion, garbage black spots and flooding. He asked BMRCL to explore alternative work sites.

Responding to a question from *DH*, Gowda acknowledged some improvement at metro worksites along the Outer Ring Road (ORR). "Road space taken for the work and debris dumping has reduced, but they still occupy one portion of the road, from Veerannapalya to Hebbal," he noted.

On long-awaited metro connectivity to the ORR tech hub, Gowda said he had directed BMRCL to begin trial runs on the KR Puram-Marathahalli and Marathahalli-HSR Layout stretches by October 2026.

He noted that Marathahalli and Silk Board stations would be delayed due to pending works. The 19.75-km line from KR Puram to Silk Board, which falls under Phase 2A, will open about five months later, he said.

A senior BMRCL official, on condition of anonymity, told *DH* that viaduct construction in Phase 2A had been completed except at Marathahalli and Silk Board, and that track-laying was in progress.

Efforts are underway to complete track works at Marathahalli before the October trial runs. While the elevated track to the Baiyappanahalli depot has been completed, viaduct construction at Silk Board will take more time, he added.

The official added that work had been hit by severe labour shortages. Gowda announced that the Hebbal-Kempegowda International Airport section is targeted to open by June 2027 and the KR Puram-Hebbal section by December 2027. Both fall under Phase 2B.

He expressed confidence that the Centre's approval for Phase 3 (44.65 km) would come within the next 20 days, and BMRCL would finalise the tender process.

Delhi HC upholds temporary ban on Telegram

Telegram, From Page 1

The Union government, through the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, issued the interim blocking order on June 16 and the final order on June 18, based on inputs from the National Testing Agency regarding the platform's misuse ahead of NEET-UG re-examination.

Upholding the Centre's powers under Section 69A, the court clarified that the term "information" in the provision must be interpreted expansively.

It includes images, sound, voices, codes, computer programmes, software, and databases, and cannot be narrowly restricted to individual posts or accounts.

The bench rejected Telegram's arguments on procedural lapses, including non-communication of reasons and lack of adequate hearing, noting that the emergency nature of the order and compliance with statutory procedures under Section 69A and the 2009 Rules made such challenges unsustainable.

It further held that the orders reflected due application of mind, with a clear nexus between the directions and the need to protect the interests of over 2.2 million NEET candidates and prevent disruption of public order.

The court also rejected contentions that the final order could not supplement the initial reasons, stating that the statutory scheme explicitly permits interim blocking directions in emergencies based on the Secretary's satisfaction.

Scope of project

Tree risk assessment framework

Non-invasive study of old trees and preparing four risk categories to remove those posing threat to safety. Monitoring, protective measures to save the remaining ones.

Protection against litigation

The city administration has come under spotlight for damage to life and property caused by tree falls and has been dragged to K'taka HC & SC, which have awarded compensation. The study will help GBA avoid such litigation.

Preservation of trees

In a city that has lost about 75% of its green cover since the 1970s, preserving trees is a paramount issue. The urban heat island effect, acutely felt over the last 10 years, has further added weight to the cause of protecting the trees.

Species-specific failure data

Provide specific information about old trees, particularly exotic trees. Weak trees would be phased out after scientific evaluation.

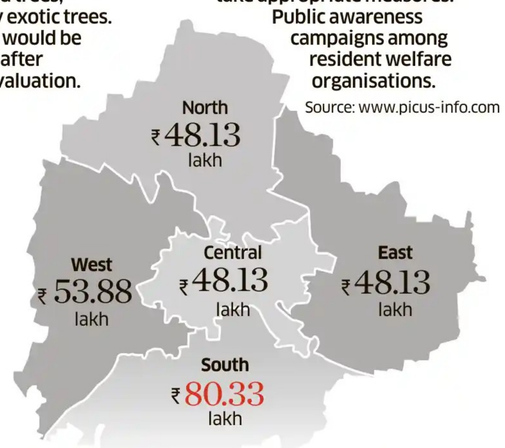
Capacity building

Workshops and training manuals to train GBA staff and officers to identify weak trees/branches and take appropriate measures.

Public awareness campaigns among resident welfare organisations.

Source: www.picus-info.com

GBA mulls project to assess trees that threaten safety



Expenditure: Study costs Rs 2.93 cr cumulatively for 5 corporations

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) forest cell has received a proposal for the study of Bengaluru's trees to understand risk assessment and prevent damage to life and property through capacity building framework to help the staffers manage the trees.

Proposed by the Institute for Wood Science and Technology (IWST), the project will cumulatively cost Rs 2.93 crore to the five corporations. It seeks to build a scientifically defensible, legally auditable tree risk assessment framework and offers "protection against litigation arising from tree fall incidents".

The move comes after the forest cell's study found that as many as 66% of the 516 trees which fell during the heavy rains on April 29 were exotic species. Sources said the IWST had initially quoted Rs 4 crore for the project and revised the cost to align with the budgetary concerns of the GBA.

Scientists will select a number of trees in each of the corporations for a detailed study based on which information will be extrapolated. The project will focus on the preservation of healthy, heritage, and ecologically valuable trees.

Training

As part of the programme, the in-house staff in the GBA will be trained to conduct basic assessments independently. This includes visual tree assessment and basic risk assessment aimed at management of the urban trees. In the long-term, the project seeks to build a standard operating procedure (SOP) built on a sustainable and scientific tree management framework.

In each corporation, the scientists will select wards that have areas with high-risk species like gulmohar, peltophorum, spathodea, rain tree and other exotic trees. Other key criteria include high density of mature trees, high density of schools as well as zones with a history of tree fall.

A ward-wise comprehensive geo-tagged tree inventory and risk register, species-specific failure risk analysis for specific zones, risk categorisation (Very high, high, moderate and low) of all trees assessed and mapped during the project and preparation of awareness materials will be taken up.

Besides the capacity building programme for the staffers and forest officers of the GBA, the project also includes public awareness programmes for resident welfare associations and local leaders.

"We have received the proposal. The special commissioner will look into it and hold a discussion with the IWST to fine tune some of the key aspects before taking further decisions," GBA Deputy Conservator of Forests G K Sudarshan told *DH*.

> We have received the proposal. The special commissioner will look into it and hold a discussion with the IWST to fine tune some of the key aspects before taking further decisions.
>
> **G K SUDARSHAN**
> GBA Deputy Conservator of Forests

Staff shortage drags forest cell

While the state government has divided the growing city into five corporations to streamline administration, the management of trees in the city and forest matters has suffered due to lack of personnel, especially frontline staff.

As per an assessment the forest cell of each of the five corporations requires eight frontline staff of beat forester rank, four Deputy Range Forest Officers (RFO), two RFO and one assistant conservator of forests (ACF).

However, the entire city now has nine DyRFOs, three RFOs, three ACFs.

This has hit operations, including management of trees.

To a question, Sudarshan said he was aware of the matter.

"The matter has been communicated to the higher authorities. We have got a positive response. The government has recently transferred six additional RFOs to Bengaluru," he said.

DKS eyes scheme blitz, infra push

DKS, From Flap

On the education front, the chief minister wants to double down on the flagship 'Karnataka Public Schools' brand and seek higher corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds to revamp infrastructure.

Shivakumar is designing a new Agritech Mission, which may cost about Rs 50-70 crore, aimed at helping farmers with digital interventions. This is likely to involve giving farmers better access to drones and AI.

A separate Protein Mission is on the cards aimed at the poultry sector.

"The proposed mission will address policy constraints and tying up value chains. For example, soybean is being sold without it going into the supply chain," the officer quoted earlier explained.

Reprioritisation

Apparently, Shivakumar may explore the possibility of reviewing some announcements made by his predecessor Siddaramaiah in the 2026-27 Budget.

"There will be some reprioritisation," is how one source put it. For 2026-27, Siddaramaiah presented an ambitious outlay of Rs 4.48 lakh crore.

CID inspector arrested for role in Rs 20L robbery...

Robbery, From Flap

Complainant Babu had managed to secretly record portions of the incident and the footage has emerged as a key piece of evidence.

The police also seized the official CID jeep allegedly used in the robbery, and efforts were under way to trace the remaining accused. A case of dacoity, intimidation, assault and criminal conspiracy has been registered. Before his transfer to the CID, Mahesh served as an inspector at Bandepalya police station.

Kids in conflict with law: 5k cases...

Children, From Flap

Sneha C V, Director, Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Department of Women and Child Development, said a lack of awareness about POCSO rules among boys, especially in rural areas, results in them being booked under the Act.

"Analysis of the data shows that the majority of those involved in major crimes are those who drop out of school or are addicted to banned substances or mobile games," she said, adding that inter-department coordination is necessary to prevent school dropout and subsequent crimes.

"We need to address these children with the intention of reforming them and ensuring they do not become repeat offenders. The state's 17 observation centers are working on this principle," she said.

Conviction of children in conflict with the law, even for serious crimes, is low.

Yatish, Deputy Director of Juvenile Justice Committee, said getting witnesses to give testimony and tracing children involved in offences is an impediment in conviction.

"Deliberations are going on within the law fraternity to consider children aged between 15 and 18 to treat them as adults if they have committed a heinous crime with an intention and motive," Yatish added.

Lebanon truce agreed after US-Iran...

Iran, From Page 1

The violence was the worst since the sealing of a US-Iran deal to halt the wider West Asia war, which was supposed to also pause fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

A senior US official said the ceasefire came into effect around 4 pm Lebanon time following an exchange of fire, adding that negotiators for the US and Qataris had worked out the agreement with help from Iran.

Two sources from Iran-aligned Hezbollah and a senior Israeli official confirmed the ceasefire.

"If Hezbollah does not attack us, then for us it is not a time of war," the Israeli official said, adding that Israel would keep its forces in southern Lebanon, where it has occupied an area along Israel's northern border.

The memorandum of understanding signed this week by the Iranian and US presidents left discussion of Iran's nuclear programme and other tough issues until later, giving the sides 60 days to reach a lasting agreement or extend the interim deal.

Preparations for technical talks to start in the Swiss mountaintop resort of Buergenstock were far advanced when a White House spokesperson said on Thursday that US Vice President JD Vance had dropped plans to attend.

A Swiss foreign ministry statement said the talks had been postponed and that Switzerland remained ready to facilitate the talks and the relevant preparatory work was continuing.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Defections and the erosion of trust

In a fresh round of political defections, six MPs of the Shiv Sena (UBT) are likely to join the Sena's breakaway faction led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Shinde, who split the Shiv Sena and formed a government in the state in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2022, has induced more defections now. The Uddhav Thackeray-led faction of the Sena alleges that the exercise – termed Operation Tiger – involves a price of Rs 50 crore for each MP, with Rs 15 crore paid in advance. It is being claimed that the deserters will escape disqualification under the anti-defection law since two-thirds of the party's MPs are switching camps. This contention will be tested by provisions in the anti-defection law which stipulate that a bloc of MPs can join another party only after their parent party formalises a similar merger.

These defections follow recent crossovers from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Trinamool Congress (TMC). In April, seven of the AAP's 10 MPs in the Rajya Sabha joined the BJP. Following the TMC's rout in the West Bengal Assembly elections in May, 20 of the party's 28 MPs in the Lok Sabha announced their merger with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), an obscure political outfit based in Tripura. Ironically, some of the leaders of the NCPI, which has no MLAs or MPs, were not aware of this high-profile defection. No party appears safe from desertions now. Reports indicate possibilities of a repeat in the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar), leaving their leaders on the edge. The two outfits have 37 MPs and eight MPs, respectively, in the Lok Sabha.

The crossovers hollow out democratic accountability and threaten to normalise political opportunism

In the backstage of this churn is its biggest beneficiary, the BJP, as it steps up efforts to increase support in Parliament. The defections flout the accepted rules of political conduct and violate the basics of parliamentary democracy. These shifts are not grounded in political convictions or ideologies; they are about power and a fear of harassment and persecution. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which was introduced to curb political opportunism and defections, is a dead letter now. When legislators elected as representatives of parties with stated ideologies switch over to other parties, they normalise a political culture of brazen transactionalism, further eroding public trust in the electoral process. Notably, the conduct of the Lok Sabha and Assembly speakers and the Rajya Sabha Chairperson in the relevant cases has not inspired confidence in restoring this trust.

Trees cannot be collateral damage

Mysuru's citizens have reasons to be outraged. Even as protests continue against the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)'s proposal to fell more than 500 trees for road expansion projects, the Railways has chopped down over 30 trees near Kukkarahalli Lake without obtaining the mandatory permission from the Forest Department, which has now decided to register a First Information Report after completing a detailed assessment of the felled and pruned trees. The episode exposes a disturbing pattern. In Mysuru, trees are increasingly treated as expendable obstacles rather than irreplaceable public assets. The Railways has defended their action by arguing that, with the track fully electrified, overhanging branches posed a serious safety risk during the monsoon and could disrupt train services. Environmentalists, however, contend that scientific pruning and proper canopy management could have addressed the problem. Passenger safety is undoubtedly paramount, but it cannot become a shield for bypassing due process. The Supreme Court has consistently held that statutory permission from the competent local authority must precede any tree-felling.

Only last year, nearly 50 heritage trees, many more than half a century old, were felled to facilitate a road-widening project. Development is essential, but the growing tendency to solve every infrastructure challenge with a chainsaw reflects a failure of imagination and planning. Tree-felling should remain the last resort, not the first response, whenever alternatives exist. The loss of a mature tree extends far beyond the disappearance of wood and leaves. It instantly ends decades of carbon sequestration, eliminates natural cooling for surrounding neighbourhoods, destroys habitats for birds and insects, weakens soil stability, and alters the microclimate. Such ecological services cannot be recreated by planting saplings elsewhere.

Development should not be envisioned at the cost of mature trees. Felling them must be the last resort

The apex court has repeatedly emphasised that tree-felling must be governed by the principle of sustainable development. It has recognised mature trees as invaluable oxygen producers whose environmental contributions deserve economic valuation before they are sacrificed. Compensatory afforestation in another location can never fully offset the loss of an established tree that has taken decades to become part of a city's ecological fabric. Mysuru has long prided itself on its tree-lined avenues and green identity. If authorities continue to treat mature trees as disposable whenever a project encounters inconvenience, that identity will soon exist only in photographs. Governments must stop viewing environmental protection and development as competing objectives. The real challenge is to build infrastructure intelligently, preserving trees wherever possible, and cutting them only when every alternative has been exhausted.

AMERICA FIRST

The domestic drift behind Trump's Iran deal

Economic and political imperatives are reordering the Republican Party's foreign policy positions from within

BRIGADIER ANIL RAMAN (RETD)

The agreement between the United States and Iran may be remembered for more than its impact on West Asia. It could mark one of the most significant shifts in American domestic politics in decades. For the first time in modern Republican history, a Republican president appears to have accepted a major diplomatic outcome over the objections of Israel and much of the organised pro-Israel establishment in Washington.

This agreement is about much more than Iran. It reveals how political power inside the Republican Party has changed.

For nearly half a century, support for Israel has been one of the defining pillars of Republican foreign policy. Republican presidents occasionally disagreed with Israeli governments over tactics, settlements or arms sales, but those differences rarely altered the strategic direction of the relationship.

President Ronald Reagan suspended cluster bomb deliveries to Israel during the Lebanon War and approved the sale of AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia despite fierce opposition. President George H W Bush delayed $10 billion in loan guarantees to pressure Israel over settlement expansion. Yet both remained firmly within a strategic framework that treated Israeli preferences as central to American policy in West Asia.

President George W. Bush moved even closer to Israel after 9/11, viewing the War on Terror and Israeli security as closely intertwined.

Donald Trump himself appeared to reinforce this trajectory during his first term. He recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital, recognised Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, withdrew from the Iran nuclear agreement and brokered the Abraham Accords. Many regarded him as the most pro-Israel president in modern American history.

That history makes the Iran agreement remarkable. The significance lies in the political choice that accompanied the agreement. Trump demonstrated that he was prepared to conclude a settlement with Iran despite visible discomfort within sections of the Israeli leadership and among influential pro-Israel voices in Washington.

The immediate explanation lies in the military campaign itself. The US entered the conflict seeking to impose decisive costs on Iran. It achieved air superiority, struck military and nuclear infrastructure, and demonstrated overwhelming conventional superiority. Yet Iran retained enough missile capability, enough resilience and enough capacity to threaten shipping and regional stability to deny Washington a decisive political victory.

The conflict evolved into a contest between a strategy of destruction and a strategy of denial. The US could destroy targets across Iran. Iran could not defeat American forces, but it retained sufficient capability to prevent the US from securing a clean and inexpensive victory.

Once that reality became clear, negotiation became the logical course. Continuing the war promised diminishing strategic returns while increasing economic and political costs.

The domestic political context explains why Trump chose that course. For decades, Republican foreign policy rested on three mutually reinforcing constituencies: the organised pro-Israel lobby, evangelical Christians, and conservative national security hawks. Their interests largely converged around maintaining an assertive American role in West Asia. Trump has altered that equation by elevating a fourth constituency above the others: the America First movement.

Unlike earlier Republican coalitions, America First voters are far less interested in ideological commitments abroad. They judge foreign policy primarily through its domestic consequences. They ask whether wars raise inflation, increase deficits, consume military resources or distract from priorities at home. For this constituency, another prolonged conflict in West Asia carries political liabilities rather than strategic prestige.

A shift in priorities

Trump has consistently shown that his political instincts are shaped less by traditional foreign policy doctrine than by the preferences of his electoral coalition. He is willing to use force, often dramatically, but is equally willing to negotiate once he believes American leverage has been established. His objective is a political outcome that can be presented as an American success.

This represents an important departure from previous Republican administrations. The hierarchy of decision-making appears to have changed. First comes domestic political survival. Second comes the American economy. Third comes limiting military costs. Only then come alliance management and partner preferences.

This represents a shift in priorities rather than a weakening of support for Israel. It suggests that every foreign policy constituency must compete with the priorities of Trump's domestic political coalition. The implications extend well beyond West Asia.

For decades, analysts viewed America's alliance commitments as a powerful influence on presidential decision-making. The Iran agreement highlights a different reality. Alliances remain important, but are increasingly filtered through domestic politics rather than strategic orthodoxy.

For countries such as India, this is an important lesson. Indian strategic thinking has often treated American foreign policy as relatively stable across administrations. The Trump presidency has repeatedly demonstrated that domestic political coalitions now play a much larger role in shaping American external behaviour than institutional tradition or alliance expectations. Understanding America, therefore, requires understanding American politics.

The central question is whether supporting a partner advances the domestic political interests of the president.

That represents a profound change in the way American foreign policy is made.

If this pattern continues beyond the Iran agreement, historians may conclude that the defining legacy of Trump's second presidency was a reordering of political influence within the Republican Party. The party has long been regarded as the political home of the strongest supporters of Israel in American politics. A Republican president negotiating a settlement with Iran despite resistance from that constituency signals that the centre of gravity has shifted.

Trump has therefore done more than reshape American policy towards Iran. He has redefined the hierarchy of political influence inside the Republican Party. The decisive force in Republican foreign policy increasingly appears to be the domestic political imperatives of the America First movement.

(The writer is a research fellow at the Takshashila Institution)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

In the rear seat of memory

For many of us, it was the first travel beyond Kodagu

ODIYANDA K MUTHAPPA

Nearly seven decades later, our 1958 SSLC educational tour remains a vivid memory. When the tour notice appeared on the board, I mentioned it casually at home but did not press the matter. With five siblings studying in the same school, I knew finances were tight.

I quietly prepared instead for the NCC camp at Uppinangadi scheduled later that month. Then, on the penultimate day of registration, my father handed me Rs 30 and simply said, "Join the tour." It felt like a blessing. I rushed to our tour coordinator, Sachithanandiah sir, and became the 44th student in a group capped at 45—much to the delight of my friends.

Departure day arrived with electric excitement. By 7 am, my friends—Menzel D'Souza, Devaiah, and Devaraj—and I had decorated the state transport bus with banners announcing our 'scholarly expedition'. We wisely occupied the rear seats, leaving the front rows to our disciplinarian head master and Sachithanandiah sir. For many of us, it was the first travel beyond Kodagu!

Those were the days before gadgets, or even portable radios. Entertainment came courtesy of Achappa's mouth organ. His lilting film tunes, accompanied by enthusiastic clapping from the rest of us, turned the long ride from Somwarpet to Bengaluru, with stops in between, into a moving concert.

We breezed through the Mysore Dasara Exhibition, the palace, and Somnathpur before descending to the Shivanasamudra powerhouse. As the lift moved downward, chatter filled the air—until Devaiah suddenly declared, "If the lift fails, we will all go to heaven together!" And there was instant silence. At the powerhouse, the roaring turbines terrified us. Two patient engineers explained hydroelectric generation – our first lesson in applied science.

At Mandya Sugars, bullock carts lined both sides of the highway, waiting to unload sugarcanes. Our diplomat extraordinaire, Devaiah, befriended the cart drivers and returned triumphantly with pieces of chopped sugarcane. We chewed happily, taking care not to advertise our feast to the teachers.

The next day included Ramanagara's silk unit, where the unpleasant smell of cocoons contrasted sharply with the beauty of finished silk.

At HAL we were slightly disappointed: instead of large aircraft under assembly, we saw a few smaller planes and helicopters under maintenance.

Day three brought us to Lalbagh, Vidhana Soudha and Cubbon Park. At HMT we watched machines being manufactured, though watches would come later. A visit to BEL proved rather too technical for our young minds.

The highlight of the day was watching the Hindi blockbuster *Madhumathi* at Alankar Theatre in Majestic. Our town had only a tent cinema; we were awestruck by the grand interiors, synchronised lighting and pushback seats.

On the final morning, the HM found our classroom at MSS School, Basavangudi, chaotic. His advice still echoes in my ears: "Leave a place as clean as you found it."

We returned to Somwarpet tired but triumphant. Nearly 70 years later, every detail remains fresh—the school, the playground, the Channabasappa Memorial Hall, our NCC officers including Havildar Velu, and even Siddappa the gardener.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Foolish to ban the app without plugging the leak at source

This refers to 'Telegram is Frankenstein: Govt justifies ban order' (Jun 19). The Centre's justification for banning Telegram over the NEET-UG paper leak raises serious concerns. The government itself, through its oversight of the NTA, failed to detect or prevent the question paper leak in time. It cannot now shift the blame onto Telegram and absolve itself of responsibility. The High Court's question on whether the rights of 150 million users can be curtailed because of the actions of a small group of offenders is both timely and relevant. Regulatory failure cannot be used as a basis for penalising legitimate users. Accountability for the leak must rest with the agencies responsible for conducting and overseeing the examination process.
P V Prakash, Mumbai

Laudable initiative

Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda is right to focus on clearing the garbage and construction debris from major roads across the city ('KBG orders drive to clear garbage, warns of fines' Jun 19). There is no gainsaying the fact that Bengaluru suffers from unruly construction and inefficient garbage management. Garbage collection and disposal require a well-planned system in place. The role of citizens is also crucial for the system to work efficiently. Stiff penalties for littering are welcome, but their enforcement will be the real test for the administration. The minister's initiative is laudable.
H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I think Sanjay Raut surely needs some mental counselling. The time has come for him to go to Thane mental hospital because he has taken it upon himself, almost like a contract, to finish off the UBT Sena, and he has done a fine job of that.

Shaina N C, Shiv Sena leader

Anyone can speak Troll. All you have to do is point and grunt.
J K Rowling

TO BE PRECISE

Cross-voting in Karnataka MLC polls

IN PERSPECTIVE

Elevated corridors, bypassed realities

Proposed without credible evidence, the SV Road-CSB flyover ignores communities and transit alternatives

AMMU JOSEPH

The prolonged uncertainty over who would oversee Bengaluru's development after the Cabinet reshuffle told its own story. The ever-growing multiplicity of official agencies involved in various aspects of the city's infrastructure development, with little evidence of coordination, also tells a story.

The year-old Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) recently floated tenders for nine short- and medium-length elevated corridors across the city. Among them is one designed to slice through Indiranagar, a primarily residential neighbourhood, presumably to allow commuters from elsewhere to travel more quickly and smoothly to somewhere else.

The project aims to connect Old Madras Road to the Central Silk Board junction on Hosur Road (evidently the city's second-most congested traffic point, also prone to frequent flooding). The latest reported estimates for its length and cost are 11.62 km and Rs 1,300 crore, respectively. The deadline for completion of construction is two years.

This elevated corridor incorporates the Ejipura Flyover, the 2.4-km marvel that has been under construction for nearly a decade. Common sense suggests that it would be wise to wait until that project is finished (October 2026 is the latest deadline) and check how effectively it moves traffic before deciding whether or not to unleash even more traffic onto it.

Experts in the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) have flagged a dozen concerns in the Detailed Project Report (DPR). Their observation that this elevated corridor is not part of Bengaluru's current Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP 2020) and that it makes sense for it to be considered while drafting the next one is particularly pertinent. The fact that the DPR uses an outdated map of the affected areas – from the Revised Master Plan 2015, apparently based on surveys from 2003 – makes this suggestion all the more relevant.

DULT has also pointed out that the DPR does not include information about the ground-level roads and junctions beneath the proposed elevated corridor, which is essential for determining whether or not the project will improve overall mobility. Significantly, DULT also flagged the need for more detailed attention to traffic safety in the plan. Its "in-principle" acceptance of the DPR in February 2026 was obviously based on the understanding that the points raised would be addressed. Unfortunately, they remain largely unresolved.

Both DULT and independent critics have pointed out that the traffic study cited in the DPR, conducted on a single day in April 2025, is not only inadequate but also flawed and, therefore, unreliable. The less said about the section titled 'Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIA)', the better; it is pure eyewash.

The corridor appears to be an isolated, blinkered project. There is no evidence that alternative routes, which do not involve cutting across a largely residential area, have been considered. Nor does the DPR reflect any awareness of the fact that much of the traffic expected to use this route may well not materialise once the Blue Line of the Metro connecting Krishnarajapura with the Silk Board Junction becomes operational – by December 2026, according to the latest deadline.

Additionally, the proposal disregards that public funds of at least Rs 80 crore have been spent since 2020 on white-topping and refurbishing the three arterial roads in Indiranagar, which will need to be dug up again for the corridor.

Chaos on the road

The planners seem to have overlooked other important factors. There are at least two major hospitals along the route (including a public hospital), besides several other medical facilities in the neighbourhood. Access to hospitals and ambulance movement will be adversely affected. What will happen to fire engines forced to negotiate streets further narrowed by the project's pillars is a scary thought.

There are many educational institutions along the proposed route, some serving low-income families, with many children walking to them from distant localities. What will happen to them, as well as to school buses and other vehicles transporting children, with less space for movement on the streets?

Commuters at the Swami Vivekananda Road Metro Station (many currently travelling farther on feeder buses) and workers employed in Indiranagar who walk or use buses from various low-income areas in the vicinity also require safe pedestrian crossings and adequate pavements.

This ill-conceived project will also adversely affect at least 90 trees, with over 50 slated to be axed. It is clearly time to return to the drawing board and address Bengaluru's traffic imbroglio in a more thoughtful, comprehensive, holistic, and thereby effective manner.

(The writer is an independent journalist and author based in Bengaluru)

The US move to restrict access to Anthropic's most advanced models underscores the urgency of India's quest for AI sovereignty

Autonomy Imperative: The Fable-Mythos Lesson

SAMEER PATIL

The US government's export-control directive last week asking Anthropic to suspend all access to Fable 5 and Mythos 5 large language models (LLMs) for all foreign citizens on national security grounds must be interpreted as a turning point in the diffusion of frontier Artificial Intelligence (AI) models. While contesting the directive, Anthropic revoked access to all users.

Earlier, Anthropic had limited access to Mythos to a carefully curated list of entities, given its dual-use cyber capabilities. But the case of Fable 5 is different. It is a model that runs on the same underlying architecture as Mythos but has been 'safeguarded' against malicious uses, such as in cybersecurity and biotechnology. It had been commercially launched just days earlier. However, concerns over Fable's 'jailbreaking' – bypassing the safeguards reportedly by a Chinese group – led the US government to restrict its access. The directive made no exception, even for Anthropic's own foreign national employees.

The current directive is reminiscent of the earlier AI Diffusion Framework (announced in May 2025 but since rescinded), which had restricted access to certain frontier models and high-performance computing chips for the United States' foreign adversaries. The 2025 rule established a tiered, risk-based framework for exporting models and chips. However, the latest US directive imposes a blanket ban, treating allies and adversaries alike. Overnight, this recast a commercial offering as an instrument of statecraft.

The AI Divide

1 **ANTHROPIC** was founded in 2021 by former OpenAI researchers with a focus on AI safety and advanced language models

2 Daniela Amodei and her brother Dario Amodei are the president and the CEO, respectively

3 Developer of the Claude family of frontier AI models

4 Backed by Amazon and Google

Mythos & Fable (April–June 2026)

April 7: Anthropic unveils **Mythos**, an AI model focused on **cybersecurity**

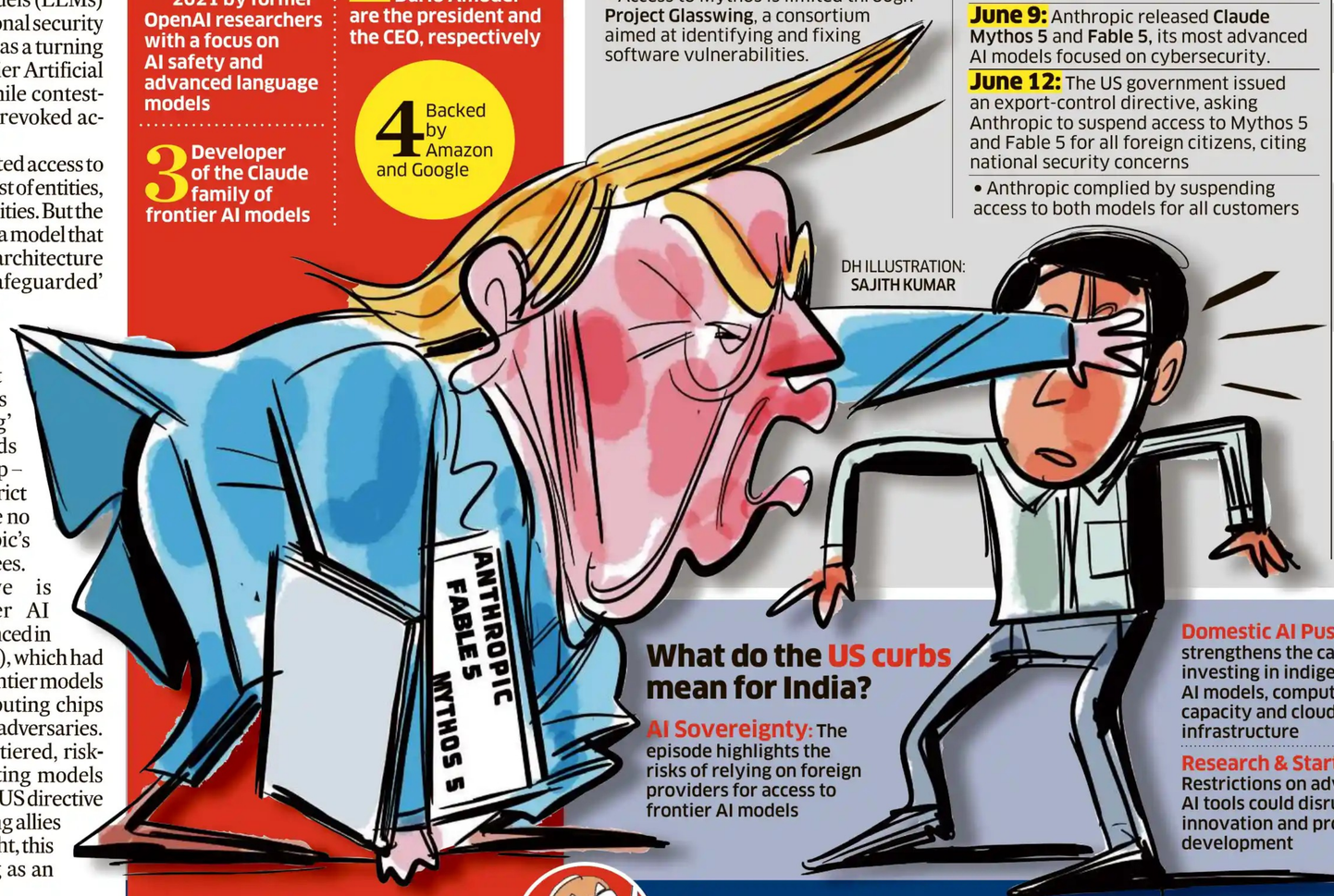
- Access to Mythos is limited through **Project Glasswing**, a consortium aimed at identifying and fixing software vulnerabilities.
- Participants included **Microsoft, Apple, Google, AWS, Cisco, Nvidia, Broadcom** and the **Linux Foundation**

June 2: Access expanded to **150** organisations across **15+** countries, including India.

June 9: Anthropic released **Claude Mythos 5** and **Fable 5**, its most advanced AI models focused on cybersecurity.

June 12: The US government issued an export-control directive, asking Anthropic to suspend access to Mythos 5 and Fable 5 for all foreign citizens, citing national security concerns

- Anthropic complied by suspending access to both models for all customers



DH ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

Why do US curbs matter?

- One of the first major curbs on a frontier AI model on national-security grounds.
- Reflects the growing securitisation of AI amid the US-China technology rivalry
- The move by the US government signals that geopolitics, rather than market forces, may increasingly shape access to cutting-edge AI
- President Emmanuel Macron warned the restrictions could "reduce global trust in US technologies", while the European Commission said they highlighted the need for greater technological sovereignty
- Companies, researchers and governments may diversify AI partnerships, infrastructure and model providers to reduce dependence on any single source.
- Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei urged world leaders to "resist the temptation to splinter" in their approaches to AI regulation, warning against a fragmented AI ecosystem

What do the US curbs mean for India?

AI Sovereignty: The episode highlights the risks of relying on foreign providers for access to frontier AI models

Domestic AI Push: It strengthens the case for investing in indigenous AI models, compute capacity and cloud infrastructure

Research & Start-ups: Restrictions on advanced AI tools could disrupt innovation and product development

Strategic Partnerships: India needs to deepen AI cooperation with trusted partners while diversifying technology sources

Key Lesson: Sustained investment needed for strategic autonomy in AI

"India has always viewed cyberspace as a Global Public Good. Access to important AI technologies should be inclusive. Democratic nations should have access to AI models to protect critical information infrastructure and effectively address growing cyber threats. **NARENDRA MODI**, Prime Minister, India

A wake-up call

Coming on the heels of an intensifying US-China AI competition and a fractured global tech landscape, the latest American export controls reinforce the need for technological autonomy and sovereign AI for other countries. These restrictions show the vulnerabilities of tech dependency, particularly how access to frontier AI models can be disrupted by regulatory shifts or weaponised amid geopolitical hostilities. Such ruptures can affect a country's foreign policy, expose it to sanctions or, worse still, render it susceptible to coercion.

India, after the United States, is Claude's (Anthropic's family of AI models) second-largest market, accounting for 5.8% of total Claude.ai use. It had just gained access to Mythos under Anthropic's Project Glasswing initiative to strengthen cybersecurity. Therefore, the US decision to restrict access to the Fable 5 model has not gone unnoticed in New Delhi. It is a pointed reminder that dependence on foreign tech carries a quiet but consequential caveat: decisions made in home capitals and distant boardrooms have national security implications.

For India, this is also déjà vu. Though not an explicit target of the latest US directive, throughout history, it has been repeatedly denied access to critical technologies, most notably in the aftermath of the 1974 nuclear test, when the Nuclear Suppliers Group and subsequently other strategic export control regimes came about.

Each denial eventually pushed India toward indigenous capability. In recent years, following the shock of COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions, India has accelerated its pursuit of technological self-reliance while deepening collaboration with like-minded partners to diversify its technology sector. With the Fable episode, the case for sovereign AI for India has rarely been clearer. The question, however, is not of intent but of execution.

The capability gap

As per the International Monetary Fund's AI Preparedness Index (which sums up four key dimensions: digital infrastructure, human capital, technological innovation, and legal frameworks), India's score of 0.4925 places it among partially prepared countries. India is making substantial efforts to implement AI-related initiatives, but is constrained by investment, infrastructure, and institutional capacity. The sovereign AI buildout has been happening under the flagship IndiaAI Mission, with an outlay of US$ 1.25 billion, roughly 0.43% of US private AI investment, which peaked at US$285.9 billion in 2025. The mission runs a common compute facility consisting of 58,000 Nvidia GPUs, with plans to triple that capacity to 100,000 by the end of 2026. The imbalance couldn't be starker. India generates nearly 20% of the world's data, yet has less than 5% of the global AI compute capacity. This data-rich, compute-poor reality makes India more of a consumer rather than a producer in the global AI stack.

Given these constraints, India is increasingly positioning itself as the global "AI use-case capital," deploying AI at the scale of one billion people, in a manner reminiscent of the rollout of Aadhaar and the Unified Payments Interface. The India AI Impact Summit, which concluded earlier this year, sought to leverage AI as a tool to tackle socio-economic challenges and governance gaps India faces. This socially oriented innovation was underscored by the prominent display of AI startups and their solutions spanning agriculture, healthcare, climate change, and financial inclusion at the summit. During the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reinforced this vision by urging Indian startups to chart their own course and develop indigenous AI solutions for global application rather than replicating models from developed economies.

Building sovereign AI

However, India hasn't given up on pursuing sovereign AI capabilities. Under the IndiaAI Mission, 20 foundational models are in development, five of which have already been released, including BharatGen's multimodal LLM and a 105-billion-parameter model by Sarvam (which just achieved unicorn status). Moreover, by undertaking the India Semiconductor Mission, the government is reducing the leverage others can exercise over India. Ten projects have been approved so far, with the Tata-PSMC facility expected to begin its initial commercial production by the end of 2026.

Taken together, these investments in foundational models, semiconductors, and computing infrastructure, combined with a focus on use cases, are defining India's approach to sovereign AI. The goal is not to eliminate dependence on frontier AI models. That remains an unrealistic endeavour for the foreseeable future. Rather, the aim is to build sufficient architectural resilience to convert that dependence from a vulnerability into a calculated choice. The US government's move on Anthropic's AI models doesn't change what India must do; it just changes how much time India has to do it.

(The writer is Director, Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology at the Observer Research Foundation)

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

A case for modern field stations

Lack of funding and vision has resulted in ill-equipped field stations. Science researchers want this to change for better, writes Vrushal Pendharkar

India needs to establish a nationwide network of modern field stations to advance biological research and enable long-term field-based studies, according to a recent perspective paper in the Journal of Experimental Biology by a team of senior biologists.

Given the diverse ecosystems that harbour unique biodiversity across the country, the paper envisions the field stations as permanent research and monitoring centres. The field stations can be valuable resources for training and capacity building for various stakeholders, as well as for disseminating knowledge and engaging with the wider citizenry and local communities, according to the researchers.

In the long term, field stations can contribute to ecological conservation of species, landscapes and even policies. "The important thing is about having field infrastructure that would enable long-term studies, across institutions, across generations, which is sorely missing in our country," says Hema Somanathan, the lead author of the paper and biologist at the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER), Thiruvananthapuram.

"A lot of the points the paper brings forth are well known in ecological circles, but they haven't been formally put down before. This can at least start a conversation, if not solve the problem in the short term," says Yadigiri Tiruvaimozhi, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences at Krea University, who was not a part of the study.

The need for modern field stations and the expansion of the countrywide field infrastructure has been a longstanding topic of discussion within the wider community of wildlife biologists. Individual researchers or institutes have been conducting field-based research in their favoured locations or field sites for a few decades.

"Yet, there was nothing long-term, as these were driven by individual funding that an individual scientist could gather," shares Somanathan. "So a lot of these projects were discontinuous, and there was no consolidated effort for gathering data over and over, what we call longitudinal data from the same locations over an extended period of time."

The paper lists the Indian field stations and the few sites where long-term research is conducted — be it the famous Agumbe Rainforest Research Station in Karnataka, where studies on herpetofauna, including the King cobra, are carried out, or the University of Mysuru's Primate Research Station in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, or the Andaman Nicobar Environment Team, managed by the Bengaluru-based Dakshin Foundation, which primarily does marine ecology and conservation work in the Andaman Islands. But these are exceptions rather than the norm.

"The majority are accommodation facilities where researchers come to crash for the night or take a shower," says Somanathan.

Lack of infrastructure

Manjari Jain, an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at IISER-Mohali and a co-author of the paper, seconds the opinion. Jain and her students have been using the vast IISER-Mohali campus to conduct research projects. It helps them to avoid travel, accommodation and other costs.

Jain also has a long-term research site in the Sirsa district of Haryana. "We've to keep renting accommodation there," she says. "The field station is merely for accommodation, but there is no way to store biological samples or blood and tissue samples collected in the field."

The scientists advocate for modern scientific infrastructure, such as Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machines for DNA extraction, weighing balances, deep freezers for storing field samples, weather stations, and automated data loggers, as well as basic facilities like power backup, internet connectivity, and access to data servers.

Apart from these facilities, Tiruvaimozhi thinks a field station should also have a basic natural history collection of specimens for that particular location. "So that someone going there for the first time can familiarise themselves with the place," she adds. "It also becomes a beautiful starting point for an introduction to the flora and fauna of that place."

The availability of these facilities in the field makes processing samples efficient and easy for researchers. It also prevents blood, stool, and pollen samples from becoming unusable during their long transit from the field to the lab. "So in some sense we are talking about integration of both lab and field-based analysis as both are required," says Somanathan.

Need for funds

The scientists also highlight the need for sustained long-term funding for field stations. Most research in India is funded by grants awarded to individual scientists, which are typically for a five-year period. They barely cover travel, consumables, accommodation, equipment, and the hiring of project staff to conduct field research. That leaves nearly nothing to contribute towards the upkeep and maintenance of field stations.

"The kind of investment (needed to develop field stations) cannot come from individual projects or scientists but from the government," says Jain. "They have to look into this as an investment of the country." The scientists equate field stations with national observatories and laboratories, which receive sustained funding. Field stations should also be supported in a similar manner.

The other challenge the paper highlights is the frustrating, cumbersome process of acquiring research permits from the forest and other government departments. Researchers are often left with a narrow window to wrap up field studies because permits are frequently delayed. The scientists propose a national-level policy in which nominated field stations are issued research permits, instead of the time-consuming system of providing permits to individual researchers or projects. A governing council within the field station screens the research proposals to streamline the approval process.

The scientists recommend forming a country-wide network of field stations covering the biodiversity hotspots as well as lesser-studied and neglected areas of biodiversity. Such a network will lay down strong foundations for long-term ecological research and encourage collaboration between organisations. More importantly, field stations can facilitate engagement with local communities, provide sustained employment, and support species conservation.

"The next step will be for the ecological community to get together to push (this idea) in the ministries, science policies or science funding circles," says Jain. The scientists intend to start the consultative process within the community right away.

(The author is an independent journalist)

DID YOU KNOW?

A 5-million-year-old whale graveyard

The deep sea is a territory of the unknown. It is home to myriad life forms that have adapted to extreme environmental conditions. One of the most fascinating phenomena in the deep sea is whale-fall communities, in which a whale carcass that sinks to the ocean floor spawns an ecosystem of diverse organisms, providing crucial insights into the interplay of life and death in the ocean's depths.

Although more than 70 whale falls have been documented across various ocean basins and depths, their distribution remains patchy and only sporadically documented.

A vast whale graveyard has been found on the bed of the Indian Ocean, representing the deepest and most extensive known accumulation of whale fossils, carcasses, and communities supported by the whale falls. The graveyard stretches for 1,200 km along the seafloor at depths between 4,200 and 7,000 m, with some fossils dating back to around 5.3 million years ago.

Whale falls create complex localised ecosystems that support a wide range of organisms. Most known ones are at depths ranging from tens of metres to around 4,000 m, leaving deeper environments poorly understood. The deepest fall is at a depth of 4,204 m in the southwest Atlantic.

An international team led by scientists at China's Institute of Deep Sea Science and Engineering now report a large whale necropolis along the sea floor in the Diamantina Zone in the southeastern Indian Ocean. They identified 485 whale-fossil sites and five active whale falls at depths between 4,200 and 7,000 m. The density of whale remains can reach up to 759 individuals per sqkm.

The team comprising researchers from China, Italy and New Zealand explored the area for five weeks in 2023 using the Fendouzhe submersible, which can dive to a depth of 11,000 m.

The Diamantina Fracture Zone lies south of the Broken Ridge and Perth Abyssal Plain in the Indian Ocean, stretching for about 1,200 km parallel to the Southeast Indian Ridge.

Formed when the Australian and Antarctic continents separated between 60 and 50 million years ago, it has not previously been documented as associated with any whale falls. Among the whale species found, five were beaked whales and one baleen whale. Isotopic dating reveals that the oldest fossils are about 5.3 million years old, indicating that whale falls may have occurred in the region since at least the Early Pliocene.

The carcasses host distinct communities dominated by diverse species such as jellyfish, brittle stars, bone-boring worms and chemosynthesis-based bivalves, many of which may be new to science, the authors suggest. Most fossils in this area are from deep-diving beaked whales, both living and extinct, including a newly identified, now-extinct whale species, *Pterocetus diamantinae*.

"The findings reshape our understanding of deep-sea ecosystems and shed light on the distribution, ecology and evolution of beaked whales," the team reported in Nature this month.

- Kalyan Ray

Rahul's birthday bonhomie with DMK

Invokes shared resolve to defend the idea of India

CHENNAI, DHNS

Children greet Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his 56th birthday celebrations in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday used birthday greetings from DMK president MK Stalin to reach out to the Dravidian party after their messy break-up last month, saying that their shared resolve to defend the idea of India, the Constitution and federalism would continue to guide them.

While Stalin and Kanimozhi extended their wishes, Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin remained conspicuously silent, exposing a sharp generational divide within the DMK over how to engage with the national party.

The DMK's young guard wants the party to maintain complete distance from the Congress, while the old guard prefers a more pragmatic approach that factors in larger national issues.

The friction between the two parties was evident in the tone of the exchange itself.

Stalin's greeting was brief and direct, wishing Rahul only a long life, whereas the Congress leader's reply was more expansive — deliberately steering the conversation back to their "shared interest in protecting the Constitution".

This is not the first time the Congress has reached out to the DMK after the former quit the alliance to support the TVK form its government in Tamil Nadu.

Earlier this month, both Rahul and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge had fondly remembered late DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi on his birth anniversary.

However, the DMK has made it clear it will not join any alliance that includes the Congress, while its mouthpiece Murasoli has been unsparing in its criticism of Rahul.

With the Trinamool Congress losing a majority of its lawmakers, the DMK is critical for the Opposition bloc's fight against the BJP in Parliament.

7k get job offer letters

The Indian Youth Congress on Friday said that around 7,000 people received offer letters at a fair organised at the Talkatora Stadium in Delhi to mark the 56th birthday of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, reports PTI.

Governance over politics: Vijay's Centre play

ANALYSIS

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

PRAGMATIC STANCE

- Governor reads full Vijay Cabinet speech, unlike past walk-outs under DMK
- TVK looks to avoid blanket confrontation with Centre
- Anti-BJP stand intact, but cooperation with Centre seen as key to state's growth
- Experts say pragmatism drives Vijay's strategy

The Tamil Nadu Governor's address on Thursday did more than just signal the direction the TVK government will take on critical state issues like federalism and language policy. It dropped clear hints that the new administration intends to avoid a purely confrontational approach towards the Centre, indicating that its support or opposition will depend entirely on the issue at hand.

That Governor R V Arlekar read the entire speech prepared by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's Cabinet, including portions highly critical of the BJP-led Centre, was a welcome departure from the past. Under the previous DMK regime, his predecessor, RN Ravi, famously walked out of the House for four consecutive years.

The spirit of give-and-take was on full display. In line with long-held convention, the address began with the 'Tamil Thai Vaazthu' state anthem. Meanwhile, the government agreed to the Governor's request to play the National Anthem twice, both at the beginning and the end.

The announcement of a "special legal committee" to fight for pending state funds and the demand to the Centre to release Rs 3,458 crore under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan signals the intention to fight legally and diplomatically rather than confrontationally.

The distinct message to the Centre is that politics and governance will remain separate, a sharp departure from the DMK administration, which frequently fought public battles with the Centre. The thinking at the top seems to be that while the BJP remains TVK's ideological opponent, political rivalry must not be allowed to jeopardise governance or block the flow of central funds to the state.

By reaffirming the state's long-held stance on federalism, education, and social justice, the TVK signalled that the foundational flavour of Tamil Nadu politics will never be compromised.

The CM's aides told *DH* that he never compromised on his anti-BJP stand and pointed to his decision to reject calls to join the NDA before elections, despite pressure from a CBI case regarding the Karur stampede, in which Vijay was called for questioning three times as a witness.

"His anti-BJP politics will continue," one of Vijay's advisors said. "But his political ideology won't come in the way while dealing with the Centre, whose cooperation is key to the state's growth."

There is a clear political calculation behind this strategy. TVK seems to realise that the blanket anti-BJP politics have their limits, as demonstrated by the DMK's loss in the 2026 election.

Vijay seems determined to maintain harmonious ties with the Union government without compromising on the state's stance on critical issues — a stand that will certainly draw criticism from the DMK.

Senior journalist Maalan Narayanan said Vijay's approach is driven by pragmatism, recognising that he will be unable to implement his promises without generous funding from the Centre.

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER

A temporary bridge over the Balason river collapsed following heavy rainfall in Dudhia in West Bengal's Darjeeling district on Friday. The hume pipe structure was constructed as an alternate arrangement following the collapse of the Dudhia iron bridge in October 2025. PTI

MHA, SC to address case pendency: Shah

NEW DELHI, PTI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said his ministry is working in "collaboration with the Supreme Court and High Courts" to prepare a blueprint to reduce the number of pending cases.

He said efforts are also underway to establish evening courts and create mechanisms to clear pending criminal cases in the two courts.

The minister said the objective of the new criminal justice codes is clear — Wherever a crime is registered in the country, the entire judicial process, including appeals up to the Supreme Court, must be completed and "guilt established" within three years.

The ministry will not tolerate delays at any cost, a government statement said. Shah said "full cooperation from courts will be essential".

India gets vice-presidency of FATF

NEW DELHI, PTI: India was on Friday accorded the vice presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global body that sets standards for combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

India, a member of the influential international body since 2010, is occupying this chair for the first time.

Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal was appointed the vice president of the body at the conclusion of the plenary meeting held at the outfit's headquarters in Paris, a FATF statement said.

Aggarwal is a 1994-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of Madhya Pradesh cadre and has served in the past as the head of the Indian delegation to FATF.

"Members approved the Priorities of the FATF under the incoming UK Presidency, and appointed Mr Vivek Aggarwal of India as the incoming Vice-President of the FATF (July 2026-June 2027)," the FATF said.

Delegates from more than 200 jurisdictions and observers gathered in Paris during June 17-19 to discuss threats to global financial integrity.

Aggarwal will succeed UK national Giles Thomson, who has been holding the post since July 1, 2025.

Meanwhile, the finance ministry termed the development a "landmark recognition" of India's growing leadership in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

"The appointment places an Indian official at the apex of the global standard-setting body for anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing," the ministry said.

Port city plan, pvt investment on Kerala wishlist

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

BUDGET BOOK

- Road tax reduced on e-Vehicles costing below Rs 20L, hiked for those costing over Rs 40L
- 'Brand Keralam' to promote state's traditional and indigenous products
- Reforms 2.0 for outdated land use regulations
- International-standard football stadium in North Kerala is envisaged

Presenting the Congress-led UDF government's maiden budget in Kerala, Chief Minister V D Satheesan unveiled a mix of schemes, including 'Mission Samudra' to make Kerala a port city and an aviation logistics hub and welfare initiatives targeting Gen-Z to elders.

While the people are spared from any additional tax burdens, the budget emphasised attracting private investments, making use of the NRIs' investments and plugging tax evasion and collecting arrears.

'One Kerala Karuthal Mission' (One Kerala Care Mission), an initiative to create a corpus fund using CSR donations to extend swift relief to the distressed, and measures to ensure workplace wellness are among the innovative announcements in the budget. The move assumes significance as the state has been witnessing frequent instances of young professionals dying due to cardiac arrests.

Further, Satheesan on Friday announced a health insurance scheme named after former CM Oommen Chandy offering coverage of up to Rs 25 lakh. It was one of the five 'Indira guarantees' promised by the party during the election campaigning.

With an allotment of Rs 400 crore, 'Mission Samudra' aims to leverage the potential of the 600-km-long coastline, two major international ports and 17 minor ports to make the state a port city.

Satheesan said various infrastructure development projects will be formulated to position Kerala as South India's premier aviation-logistics hub, especially in the export-logistics and tourism sectors.

To tap the potential of rich mineral deposits in coastal areas, a Southern Kerala economic corridor and Rare earth and critical minerals corridor will be established.

India seeks Brics cooperation to strengthen MSME sector

AGRA (UP), PTI: India on Friday said that the cooperation among Brics nations can help strengthen micro, small and medium enterprises, support weaker sections and contribute to the economic growth of member countries.

Jitan Ram Manjhi

Addressing the Brics MSME Forum here, Union Minister for MSME Jitan Ram Manjhi said that the Centre has taken several steps to promote the MSME sector.

Referring to Brics cooperation, Manjhi said the grouping, which earlier had seven countries and has now expanded to 21 nations, could help strengthen MSMEs, support weaker sections and contribute to the economic growth of member countries.

He said around 8.5 crore MSME units are functioning in the country, providing employment to nearly 40 crore people.

"MSMEs are central to achieving inclusive and sustainable economic development. The challenges facing enterprises today whether related to financing, technology adoption, sustainability or market access require collaborative solutions. Brics countries possess immense strengths and complementary capabilities. Through continued dialogue and cooperation, we can build a robust framework that empowers MSMEs to become drivers of innovation, exports and employment," he noted.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer-Head Office, No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Aravindha Bhavana Building, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No.: KIADB/LAQ/1017/2026-27 Date: 11.06.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public and related Land Khatedars/Anubhavadars/ interested persons that the lands situated in Belluru Village, Narasapura Hobli, Kolar Taluk, Kolar District, having a total extent of 1-38 A/G with below mentioned Survey Numbers are proposed to be acquired for the M/s. Tata Electronics System Solution Private Limted Road Construction Project as notified in the Preliminary Notification No. CI 100 SPQ 2022 dated 18.04.2026 published in the Karnataka Gazette. Furthermore, it is hereby informed to all Khatedars that If there are any objections to this Land Acquisition Process, within 30 days from the date of receiving the Notice, objections should be submitted in writing, in person or through authorized person to **Head Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer (KIADB), No. 14/3, C.F.C. Building, Maharshi Aravinda Bhavana, 1st Floor, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru – 560001.** Details of the Lands for Acquisition are as below.

Sl. No	Name of the Khatedar/ Anubhavadar	Survey No.	Acquisition Area		
			Ainu A-G	Kharabu A-G	Remaining A-G
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Village: Belluru Hobli: Narasapura Taluk: Kolar		**District: Kolar**		
1	M.V. Vinayanath S/o M. Venkataram – Bhu. Pa., M.V. Vinayanag S/o M. Venkataram – Bhu. Pa., M.V. Vinayanag S/o M. Venkataram	267/1	1-05	-	1-05
2	Vijaya M.V. Ram W/o M. Venkataram – Bhu. Pa., B.G. Ramakrishnappa S/o Gangappa – Bhu. Pa.	268	0-33	-	0-33
	Total		**1-38**	**-**	**1-38**

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer KIADB (Head Office)

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ)

ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನಂ. ಎಚ್‌ಡಿಎಮ್‌ಸಿ/61/12/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-06-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಸೂಚನೆ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಜಾಹಿರಾತು ನಂ:- 106 ದಿನಾಂಕ:- 30-04-2026

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಸನ್ 2025-26 ಹಾಗೂ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ ವಾರು ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಆದೇಶ 1999-2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ PWD ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ (SC) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ - 1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59213 ರೂ. 3.10ಲಕ್ಷ. **2)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59055 ರೂ. 8.70ಲಕ್ಷ. **3)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59215 ರೂ. 36.20ಲಕ್ಷ. **4)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59692 ರೂ. 21.50ಲಕ್ಷ. **5)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59784 ರೂ. 8.69ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ (ST) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ - 6) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 58898 ರೂ.9.98ಲಕ್ಷ. 7) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59963 ರೂ.15.00ಲಕ್ಷ. **(CAT-1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ - 8)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59617 ರೂ.49.60ಲಕ್ಷ. **(CAT-2A) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ - 9)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59052 ರೂ.21.50ಲಕ್ಷ. **10)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 60072 ರೂ.34.95ಲಕ್ಷ. **11)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 60075 ರೂ.8.40ಲಕ್ಷ. **12)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59588 ರೂ.5.50ಲಕ್ಷ. **13)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59783 ರೂ.21.44ಲಕ್ಷ. **ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ - 14)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59719 ರೂ.10.00ಲಕ್ಷ. **15)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59648 ರೂ.45.20ಲಕ್ಷ **16)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59812 ರೂ.21.50ಲಕ್ಷ. **17)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 58942 ರೂ.3.50ಲಕ್ಷ. **18)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59053 ರೂ.12.48ಲಕ್ಷ **19)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59216 ರೂ.2.25ಲಕ್ಷ. **20)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59219 ರೂ.15.52ಲಕ್ಷ. **21)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59137 ರೂ.49.95ಲಕ್ಷ. **22)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 58903 ರೂ.23.00ಲಕ್ಷ. **23)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59926 ರೂ.9.45ಲಕ್ಷ. **24)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59931 ರೂ.21.50ಲಕ್ಷ **25)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 60074 ರೂ.3.15ಲಕ್ಷ. **26)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 60076 ರೂ.28.50ಲಕ್ಷ. **27)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59782 ರೂ.0.00ಲಕ್ಷ 28) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 60077 ರೂ.50.00ಲಕ್ಷ. **29)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 59898 ರೂ.20.00ಲಕ್ಷ. **ಮರು ಕರೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ - ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ (SC) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ - 30)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 58954 ರೂ.10.90ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). **ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ (ST) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ - 31)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ - 58863 ರೂ.29.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). **32)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ - 57015 ರೂ.32.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) **33)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ - 57852 ರೂ.18.90ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). **ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ - 34)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 57005 ರೂ. 19.04ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). **35)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 57543 ರೂ.10.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). **36)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 57771 ರೂ.35.00ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). **37)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 57006 ರೂ.9.22ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ). **38)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 52389 ರೂ.6.00ಲಕ್ಷ (4ನೇ ಕರೆ). **39)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 57117 ರೂ.5.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ). **40)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 57150 ರೂ.7.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ). **41)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ 57147 ರೂ.15.00ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ). **42)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 55682 ರೂ. 35.64ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ). **43)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 57151 ರೂ.3.93ಲಕ್ಷ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ). **44)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 52224 ರೂ.10.00ಲಕ್ಷ (6ನೇ ಕರೆ). **45)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ 43491 ರೂ. 5.40ಲಕ್ಷ (8ನೇ ಕರೆ). **46)** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ- 44538 ರೂ. 6.45ಲಕ್ಷ (10ನೇ ಕರೆ).

ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಅವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ) ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಚೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0836-2213834ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23.06.2026** ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 30 ರಿಂದ 31ರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **02.07.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 30 ರಿಂದ 31ರ ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **03.07.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯ** ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. **ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 01 ರಿಂದ 29 ಹಾಗೂ 32 ರಿಂದ 46ರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.07.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 01 ರಿಂದ 29 ಹಾಗೂ 32 ರಿಂದ 46ರ ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.07.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.**

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ),
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ದಿಶಾ/332/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

1) No. : KMCRI/SUP(5)/SURGICAL ONCOLOGY/TENDER-01/127/2026-27 dated 18.06.2026
2) No. : KMCRI/SUP(5)/SURGICAL ONCOLOGY/TENDER-01/130/2026-27 dated 18.06.2026
3) No. : KMCRI/SUP(5)/PEDIATRICS/TENDER-01/129/2026-27 dated 18.06.2026
4) No. : KMCRI/SUP(5)/NEUROLOGY/TENDER-01/128/2026-27 dated 18.06.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. & ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ **SURGICAL ONCOLOGY** ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ **(1) LAPAROSCOPIC HAND INSTRUMENTS (2) BONE CUTTING MACHINE, PEDIATRICS** ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ **(3) HOSPITAL GRADE BREAST PUMP-03 NOS., NEUROLOGY** ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ **(4) POLYSOMNOGRAPHY LAB LEVEL-1** ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ **https://www.kppp. karnataka.gov.in**ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

BANGALORE EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Director(AH), Ground floor, Mahadevapura BECC Sub-Division Office, KR Puram, Bengaluru-560036

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Short Term Request for Proposal for Implementing Mass Dog Vaccination (ARV & Combined). For Stray Dogs in Mahadevapura Zone (ZONE-1) of Bengaluru East City Corporation.

RFP SCHEDULE

1.	RFP Reference No. : **BECC/2026-27/SE0070/CALL-2**
2.	Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka public Procurement portal website **http://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in : From 19/06/2026 Onwards**
3.	Tender Inviting Authority : **Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), BECC**
4.	Tender Accepting Authority : **Commissioner, BECC**
5.	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka public Procurement portal: **upto 22.06.2026 5.00 PM**
6.	Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **22.06.2026 at 12:30 PM** at the following venue: Office of the AD(AH), Ground floor, Mahadevapura BECC Sub-Division Office, KR Puram, Bengaluru-560036.
7.	Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka public Procurement portal : **upto 29.06.2026 5:00 PM**
8.	Date and Time of Opening of RFP in Karnataka public Procurement portal : **30.06.2026 5:10 PM**
9.	Place of Opening of RFP : Online at Karnataka public Procurement portal
10.	Address for Communication : AD(AH), Ground floor, Mahadevapura, BECC Sub-Division Office, KR Puram, Bengaluru-560036. Phone: 8296184712, Email: adahkrp01@gmail.com

Only Online Queries through KPP portal will be accepted. Queries sent through letters, emails or any other mode will not be entertained.

Sd/- Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), BECC.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD, Tumkur Division, Tumkur. Phone : 0816-2272479.

No. : E.E./K.P.W.D./Tmk/J.E.-3/T.No 18/2026-27 Date : 17-06-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(KW-4) E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tenders are invited in **Two Cover System for Class-3 & above** Contractors registered in PWD for **02 Work** under **5054 KRDCL Bridge. Head of Account in the Jurisdiction of Tumkur Division** through KPPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Dates are Published as below.

Maximum Amount Put to Tender Rs. 373.38 Lakhs and Minimum Amount Put to Tender Rs. 312.83 Lakhs, Maximum EMD Amount Rs. 5,60,075/- and Minimum EMD Amount Rs. 4,69,249/-. 1) Last Date for Tender Information Enquires : 01-07-2026 @ 17.00, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 02-07-2026 @ 16.00, 3) Date of Opening the Technical Bid : 03-07-2026 @ 16.30, 4) Date of Opening the Financial Bid : 04-07-2026 @ 17.00.

Note : Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered. Here after any changes with reference to this Notified in E-Portal only.

DIPR/Tumakuru/41/Manipal/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Division, Tumkur.

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501
Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/TECH//2026-2/738 Date:18.06.2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under KMERC head of account grant for 1 work (Indent No: 22353/call2) for the Estimated Cost Total Rs:826.40 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga as dates below:-

(1) Pre Bid meeting date and time Date : 01.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ: 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for information any quarries Date : 07.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ: 11.00 **(3)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date : 08.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.00 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date : 09.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.01 **(5)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date 10.07.2026ರ ಸಮಯ 16.02 Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours

RO.No.179:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

NEET retest: NTA unveils 2-lakh strong security net

Biometric checks, GPS tracking in place for June 21 exam

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday announced an extensive security and monitoring framework involving over two lakh personnel, Aadhaar-based biometric authentication, GPS-tracked transport of examination material and real-time surveillance of centres to conduct the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination on June 21, after it was cancelled due to a paper leak. A nationwide mock drill will also be conducted on Saturday, a day ahead of the exams.

The re-examination will be conducted in pen-and-paper mode from 2 pm to 5.15 pm across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad for more than 22.79 lakh candidates. Candidates eligible for compensatory time will be allowed to write the examination till 6.20 pm.

Detailing the scale of arrangements, the NTA said the examination will involve 674 city coordinators, 6,669 observers deployed for independent oversight at centres, centre superintendents and invigilators at every examination venue, besides district administrations, police forces and escort teams responsible for the secure movement of confidential material.

Multi-layered security

The agency said it has put in place a "multi-layered security framework" to ensure a fair and transparent examination. Measures include end-to-end secure handling of confidential material under sealed protocols, GPS-enabled vehicles with police escort for transporting examination papers, CCTV surveillance linked to centralised control rooms, mandatory frisking through high-sensitivity metal detectors and Aadhaar-based biometric authentication to prevent impersonation.

The NTA said active monitoring of social media platforms is underway to curb misinformation and malpractice.

In a significant relaxation, the agency clarified that candidates whose biometric verification cannot be completed due to technical malfunctions, will not be denied entry into examination halls.

Banning an app won't fix a broken system: Dipke

Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Friday criticised the Centre's decision to block the messaging app Telegram ahead of the NEET retest, saying it was akin to shutting down a road because of complaints of potholes instead of repairing it, reports PTI.

"A re-examination for NEET is taking place, but students' suicides have not stopped. Five more students have committed suicide in past 48 hours," claimed Dipke.

NEET concerns: No leave for medical students

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In an unusual precautionary measure ahead of the June 21 NEET-UG re-examination, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has directed medical colleges across the country not to grant leave to students on June 20 and 21 except in exceptional circumstances, citing concerns over the integrity of the examination process.

In a public notice issued on Thursday, the NMC forwarded instructions from the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, regarding the conduct of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination and asked all medical colleges under its purview to ensure strict compliance.

The move follows a communication sent by Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi to Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava in which the ministry flagged previous instances where some medical students were allegedly found involved.

The ministry requested that all medical colleges "remain vigilant and ensure that students are sensitised against any involvement in activities prejudicial to the conduct of the examination".

Great Nicobar Project: Cong questions 'lack' of transparency

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government has adopted an "extraordinary level of non-transparency" to hide the ecological management plans for the Great Nicobar Island transshipment project, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said here on Friday, flagging the absence of such documents in the public domain.

Ramesh stated in a letter to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav that although all such reports and plans should be public, as per conditions imposed by authorities when granting environmental nod for the project, they were not in reality.

The Rs 92,000 crore project received environmental clearance on Nov. 11, 2022, with a condition that conservation and mitigation plans were to be submitted within 15 days. Three and a half years later, none of these plans are in the public domain.

The Wildlife Institute of India, the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology, the Zoological Survey of India, the Botanical Survey of India, the National Institute of Oceanography, the Indian Institute of Forest Management and the Andaman and Nicobar Forest Department were to submit these plans.

Some of these institutions have been asked to submit revised proposals after incorporating suggestions made by the Environment Appraisal Committee. These revised plans too are not publicly available.

The letter is the latest from Ramesh — Union environment minister in the UPA regime — to Yadav on the GNI project. The two leaders have been exchanging letters over the past two years on the contentious scheme, with Ramesh red-flagging the flaws and Yadav strongly backing the project.

Railway minister plans reforms

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw chaired a high-level review meeting with senior railway officials on Thursday to address the pressing concerns of over 6,000 station masters across country and strengthen their operational role.

The meeting focused on developing a comprehensive framework to empower station masters, aiming to make railway operations safer, more efficient, a statement from the railways said on Friday.

The review comes against the backdrop of protests by station masters' unions, who have been demanding zero vacancies and rationalisation of duty hours.

Conventional warfare is still relevant: Rajnath

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Even as militaries across the world increasingly embrace drones, artificial intelligence and network-centric warfare, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asserted that conventional warfare and a strong military-industrial base will continue to remain critical to national security for decades to come.

"While the nature of warfare is evolving and enemies are harder to detect, conventional warfare and its associated means remain just as relevant as they were in 1947 and will retain much of the same relevance in 2047 as well," Singh said while performing the bhoomi pujan for a state-of-the-art 10,000-tonne aluminium extrusion press at Ordnance Factory Ambajhari in Nagpur, a unit of Yantra India Limited (YIL).

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was also present on the occasion.

Describing the project as a strategic step towards self-reliance, Singh said the new facility symbolises India's shift from dependence on imports to domestic production of critical defence and industrial materials. "A nation capable of meeting its own requirements moves forward with the greatest confidence towards safeguarding its interests," he said, stressing that control over security-related necessities is essential in the current geopolitical environment.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I WONDER WHAT BUMSTEAD IS UP TO...I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LEAVE HIS OFFICE FOR A WHOLE HOUR
3-12
IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP HIM AT HIS DESK, I'LL TAKE IT!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

A GOOD WATCHDOG SHOULD BE WELL-FED
THAT'S WHY I DON'T MIND FIXING YOU A GOOD DINNER EVERY NIGHT
I REALIZE THAT A WATCHDOG SOMETIMES HAS TO GO INTO ACTION AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE...
NOT ME...I NEED AT LEAST TWO WEEKS TO PLAN MY STRATEGY!

Marvin

MARVIN NEVER WANTS TO DO ANYTHING BUT LOUNGE AROUND THE HOUSE ALL DAY
HOW DO I GET HIM TO GO OVER TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE OR SOMETHING?
START BUYING VEGAN SNACKS

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MAHES

NGLUC

KICREB

NTGYEL

LOTTO JACKPOT
800 MILLION
I think I'll take two tickets and try to win that big jackpot.
When it's 300 million-to-1, why wouldn't you?
12/9
IF YOU END UP PURCHASING A WINNING LOTTERY TICKET, IT WILL BE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " " (Answers Monday)

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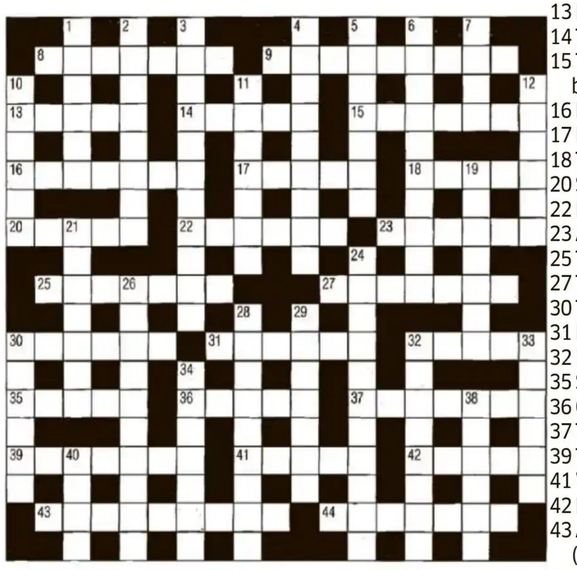
Yesterday's Jumbles: HUNCH FLOOD SWITCH DOCTOR
Answer: The football coach was uneasy on planes, so he was eager for the — TOUCHDOWN

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4045



ACROSS
8 Sturdy canine (7)
9 Presumptuous (9)
13 Farewell (5)
14 Thick woollen cloth (5)
15 Dairy product (7)
16 Habitually wandering (7)
17 Chess pieces (5)
18 Reject convention (5)
20 Mammal with long snout (5)
22 Bodyguard (6)
23 Smiled broadly (6)
25 Relatives (7)
27 Ill-mannered (7)
30 Uncover (6)
31 Martial art (6)
32 Augurs (5)
35 Canine predators (5)
36 Not suitable (5)
37 Imposing building(7)
39 Muslim festival (7)
41 In the midst of (5)
42 Black-and-white mammal (5)
43 Many-legged creature (9)
44 Breastbone (7)

DOWN
1 School of painting (6)
2 European flatfish (8)
3 Available (11)
4 Alcoholic drink (9)
5 Caribbean music (7)
6 Soft drink (6,4)
7 African language (4)
10 Marine bird (6)
11 Snake (7)
12 Showing little interest (6)
19 Bewildered (7)
21 Mythical bird (7)
24 Supreme power (11)
26 Riding style (4-6)
28 Fragrant ornamental wood (9)
29 Fortified place (7)
30 Distort (6)
32 Heavy snowstorm (8)
33 Oscillate (6)
34 Root vegetables (7)
38 Stain with blood (6)
40 Female servant (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
8 The fate of Desmond Little (7)
9 High but not squeaky? (4-5)
13 Letter from a hothead (5)
14 The racket is in a different one (5)
15 There's mischief in the air when this little imp becomes active! (7)
16 Posted earlier now (7)
17 Flush and show you've been taken unawares (5)
18 The beer is put inside in the passage (5)
20 Scolded, a tear-drop starts to form (5)
22 Partaking of, being forced to (6)
23 A cursory hug on entering, not from love (6)
25 Take in only to give solace to (7)
27 The close relations, as usual, sent out (7)
30 The word "frightfully," over and over again (3-3)
31 Free water (6)
32 In addition to the contract, get a spin-drier (5)
35 Sound of water we hear (5)
36 Get on and go along with you (5)
37 Tapes the best performance of all time (7)
39 They allow one to keep in touch with people (7)
41 What he said as he battered down the door? (5)
42 Not being polite to a bird! (5)
43 Awful trouble you'll have getting the infernal money? (4,2,3)
44 Trying to get an interview with the top man (7)

DOWN
1 Put the stand by the seat (6)
2 When it's finished, need that break (2,3,3)
3 To put it concisely, confined to a lunatic's inferno (2,1,8)
4 No singles: none at all (5,1,3)
5 Like the flibbertigibbet Miss Bird? (7)
6 Would a moored houseboat be one? (5,5)
7 Having taken the water cure successfully? (4)
10 If the lady's put the wrong map in, it won't help (6)
11 Don't notice that I have added to the letter (7)
12 As yet wearing only underclothes, dress (6)
19 Having spotted, quoted aloud (7)
21 The couple returned the animal to me outside (7)
24 What the thief didn't find in the safe? (6,5)
26 Usual answer to "Why are you simmering that bone?" (5,5)
28 Given an estimate for a new sari, going into shock! (9)
29 Such a face as the wrinkled Enid has at fifty-four? (5-2)
30 Undertake, having the equipment (6)
32 Food for the sweet-toothed Lorelei? (4,4)
33 In the world of boxing, is increasing (6)
34 Is this fruit all the rage? (7)
38 Securing work in the syndicate (6)
40 Even at the end, was bound to (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12442

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Cheep 6, Darby 9, Disa-vow 10, Strip 11, Waist 12, Belay 13, Hobo-Ken 15, Pet 17, O-X-en 18, De-put-y 19, Drier 20, Exited 22, F-use 24, Ran 25, Sleeper 26, Sigh-t 27, Pig it 28, Fift-h 29, G-elat-in 30, Grand 31, Berry
DOWN: 2, Hatbox 3, Edison 4, Pip 5, Ta-ken 6, Do-wager 7, A-way 8, Basket 12, Bear-d 13, H-over 14, Be-gin 15, Put-up 16, T-yler 18, D-ealt 19, De-bit-ed 21, Xavier 22, Feline 23, Setter 25, She-ar 26, Sign 28, Fib

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Users 6, After 9, Open-air 10, Jetty 11, Rogue 12, Sprig 13, Testate 15, Pea 17, Rote 18, Assist 19, Built 20, Carpet 22, Soda 24, Eve 25, Debates 26, Cedar 27, Proof 28, Limit 29, Disdain 30, Beret 31, Tenet
DOWN: 2, Stereo 3, Rotate 4, Spy 5, Snipe 6, Airiest 7, Frog 8, Eludes 12, Stout 13, Truce 14, Store 15, Pilot 16, Atlas 18, Alter 19, Benefit 21, Averse 22, Saline 23, Desire 25, Dandy 26, Code 28, Lit

◆ SU-DO-KU-6937 ◆

	8				2			
5					1	8		3
3	1			9				
		8					1	
2	9						8	7
	5					4		
				4			2	9
4		7	5					8
			1				5	

medium

SOLUTION TO 6936

7	9	2	1	5	4	3	8	6
6	5	1	3	9	8	7	4	2
3	8	4	6	2	7	9	1	5
9	2	7	5	4	1	6	3	8
8	4	6	9	7	3	5	2	1
1	3	5	8	6	2	4	9	7
5	6	8	4	1	9	2	7	3
4	7	3	2	8	5	1	6	9
2	1	9	7	3	6	8	5	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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P3	Y4	S1	E1	S1	R1	O1	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
K5	N1	I1	C3	G2	E1	N1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
M3	C3	X8	L1	O1	E1	P3	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
A1	E1	U1	L1	M3	T1	P3	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 245-255
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

A1 R1 O1 U1 S1 A1 L1	RACK 1 =	57
R1 E1 F4 U1 T1 E1 R1	RACK 2 =	60
S1 O1 M3 E1 O1 N1 E1	RACK 3 =	62
S1 C3 O1 R1 I1 N1 G2	RACK 4 =	80
PAR SCORE 170-180	JUDD'S TOTAL	259

HITORI-3391

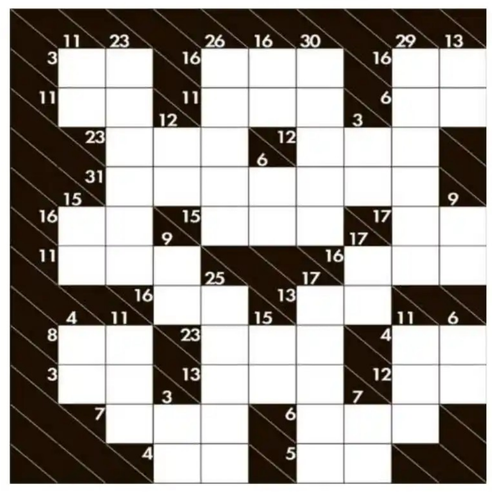
5	5	6	3	7	5	4	6
5	5	7	4	7	2	6	8
7	1	7	2	8	6	5	7
8	2	5	1	2	3	7	6
2	6	1	7	2	5	8	7
4	8	6	7	1	2	2	3
6	4	8	6	3	1	7	5
2	3	7	5	4	7	2	2

SOLUTION TO 3390

7	3	■	2	■	1	8	■
3	■	8	4	6	■	5	2
2	6	■	5	7	3	4	■
1	■	6	■	5	■	3	4
8	5	7	3	4	6	2	■
4	7	3	■	2	■	1	6
5	■	4	6	8	2	■	1
■	2	5	■	1	■	6	3

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3391



SOLUTION TO 3390

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3952

■						8		3
2	■		5				9	
		■				■		
5		6	■		■			
		8		■				
			■		3	2		
8	9	■			1	■		2
	6			3			■	8
1		7			5			6

SOLUTION TO 3951

6	9	1	2	5	7	4	8	3
5	8	4	1	3	6	9	7	2
3	2	7	8	9	4	5	1	6
8	1	2	3	7	9	6	5	4
7	4	5	6	2	1	3	9	8
9	3	6	4	8	5	7	2	1
4	5	8	9	6	2	1	3	7
2	6	9	7	1	3	8	4	5
1	7	3	5	4	8	2	6	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Uddhav offers to quit as party chief amid rebellion

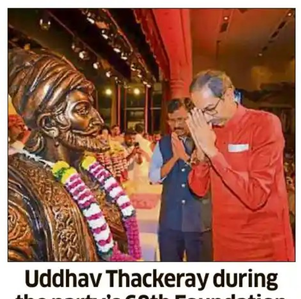
Suspense grows as rebel MPs skip Shiv Sena foundation day events

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Facing the biggest challenge to his leadership since the 2022 rebellion, an emotional Uddhav Thackeray on Friday declared that he was prepared to step down as Shiv Sena (UBT) chief if cadres felt someone else should lead the organisation.

"I have led the party for more than a decade and have continuously faced attacks. If any Shiv Sainik feels someone else should become the party president, I am ready to step aside. But I will never allow the party to fall into the hands of thieves," Thackeray said.

His remarks came amid the deepening political suspense over the future of six rebel Sena (UBT) MPs, who stayed away from the 60th foundation day celebrations organised by the rival factions in Mumbai.



Uddhav Thackeray during the party's 60th Foundation Day celebration on Friday. PTI

The six MPs are believed to be on the verge of joining Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, raising the possibility of a formal split in the Thackeray-led outfit.

Launching a sharp attack on the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he alleged that the ruling party was attempting to create a one-party political system. "This is not about One Nation, One Election. This is about One Party, No Election," he said.

Only a trailer: Shinde

At the rally in Goregaon, Shinde virtually confirmed that his efforts to expand his party were far from over.

"You need tigers, not wolves wearing tiger skins," he said while invoking the legacy of Balasaheb Thackeray.

"Tigers walk alone. They do not move in packs like dogs. This is only a trailer; the main picture is yet to come. Tigers roar, dogs bark," he said.

Op Tiger sequels soon: MLA

Shiv Sena MLA Murji Patel claimed on Friday that Part-III and Part-IV of the Operation Tiger will continue in the coming days, reports DHNS.

"Operation Tiger's Parts-III and Part-IV will unfold in the coming days. MPs have already joined us, and now the return of MLAs is about to begin... In the end, there will be only one Shiv Sena, and it will be ours," he said.

NCP leader hints at fresh churn in Pawar camp

MUMBAI, DHNS

Even as 'Operation Tiger' continues to dominate Maharashtra's political discourse, signs of possible political realignment have begun emerging within the NCP (SP) fold as well.

Senior NCP leader Dharmaraobaba Atram on Friday claimed that several MPs and MLAs from the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) were in touch with the Sunetra Pawar-led NCP and hinted at possible defections in the coming months.

"Some MPs and MLAs may join our party. I expect that as many as five MPs could come to us. If they want to win future elections, they will have to be part of the development process," Atram told reporters.

Atram was among the prominent leaders who backed the late Ajit Pawar during the 2023 NCP split.

Asked when such a political development could take place, he cryptically referred to December 12—coincidentally the birthday of NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar.

Nathwani's 4th term makes Oppn uneasy

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Parimal Nathwani, a three-term MP, has not only won his fourth Rajya Sabha poll but has also triggered unease within the I.N.D.I.A bloc after reportedly securing at least five votes from rival parties, with the Congress pointing fingers at its allies RJD and CPI(ML)L.

The 70-year-old corporate executive, known to be close to the late Dhirubhai Ambani and Mukesh Ambani, has been a Rajya Sabha MP since 2008. He won from Jharkhand as an Independent in 2008 and 2014, and in 2020 shifted to Andhra Pradesh, where he was fielded by the YSR Congress.

HIGHLY PLACED

- Gujarat cricket board website says Nathwani was instrumental in construction of Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi stadium
- He presently heads Guj football association
- Considered close to PM Modi and Amit Shah

Political rivals often cite Nathwani's perceived proximity to the BJP leadership. They point to instances such as voting in favour of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, despite a YSR Congress whip directing MPs to oppose it. He was the only one among the party's seven Rajya Sabha MPs to support the Bill, and the party is learnt to have taken no action against him for violating the whip.

According to the Rajya Sabha website, Nathwani has asked 1,980 questions and submitted eight Special Mentions over the past 18 years, though he has not introduced any Private Member's Bills. Data compiled by PRS Legislative Research shows he has maintained 39% attendance since June 2009 and participated in debates and Zero Hour submissions 21 times.

Nathwani is considered close to both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

In the RS website, Nathwani, who has declared assets worth Rs 755.05 crore in his election affidavit, is described as an "industrialist, senior corporate leader/executive".

RJD tells Cong to 'look within' after RS poll loss

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The Congress has been unsparing in its criticism of allies RJD and CPI(ML) after losing the Rajya Sabha election in Jharkhand on Thursday, with its candidate Pranav Jha defeated. The party accused the two partners of betrayal through cross-voting.

A similar episode unfolded in Bihar during the RS election, when RJD's official nominee AD Singh, who needed 41 votes to win, fell short after four Mahagathbandhan MLAs—three from Congress and one from RJD — did not vote for him. As a result, the NDA candidate won the poll.

It was found that three Congress MLAs—Surendra Prasad Kushwaha, Manoj Biswas, and Manohar Prasad Singh—did not turn up to vote.

A near-repeat unfolded in Jharkhand on Thursday, when Congress' Jha lost the RS election. While the Congress blamed the RJD and CPI(ML) for cross-voting in, the two strongly denied the charge, dismissing it as "a baseless allegation, devoid of any truth".

In a terse post on X, the RJD wrote, "The Congress should look within and ask itself how its candidate either cross-voted or remained absent during the Rajya Sabha elections in Bihar, Haryana and Odisha, thereby helping the NDA nominee win. Instead of blaming alliance partners, the Congress should introspect and set its own house in order."

CPI(ML)L hits back at Cong

NEW DELHI, DHNS: CPI(ML) L General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya on Friday shot off a letter to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, calling the party's claim that its two MLAs in Jharkhand cross-voted against I.N.D.I.A. candidate a "malicious lie" and urging him to stop making allegations that undermine the Opposition bloc. In a terse note, he said they were "shocked" to see the claim.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-16062026-273503
CG-DL-E-16062026-273503

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2989] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, जून 15, 2026/ज्येष्ठ 25, 1948
No. 2989] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026/JYAISTHA 25, 1948

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 12th June, 2026

S.O. 3110(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, 6006(E) Dated:24/12/2025 , published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Subsection (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening / four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No 13 in the stretch of land from Km 422.00 to Km 523.600 (Chitradurga - Shimoga Section) in the district of CHITRADURGA in the state of KARNATAKA

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "The Times of India" dated 01/01/2026 , "Prajavani" dated 01/01/2026 ; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE : Breief desciption of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km 422.00 to Km 523.600 (Chitradurga-Shimoga section) on NH-13 in the state of Karnataka

State: KARNATAKA			District: CHITRADURGA		
S. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Hectares)	Name of Land Owner/Interested Person
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Chitradurga					
Village: Kavadigarahatti					
1	1	Private	Dry	0.1577	Surekha C B c/o Late Basavaraj Basavannappa Chalageri, Renukha Prasad C B bin Late Basavaraj Basavannappa Chalageri, Vaageesh C B bin Late Basavaraj Basavannappa Chalageri, Varsha C B bin Late Basavaraj Basavannappa Chalageri (1/10-16 Dry), Surekha C B c/o Late Basavaraj Basavannappa Chalageri, Renukha Prasad C B bin Late Basavaraj Basavannappa Chalageri, Vaageesh C B bin Late Basavaraj Basavannappa Chalageri, Varsha C B bin Late Basavaraj Basavannappa Chalageri (1/11-17 NAK), Channabasappa C/o Mahalingappa, P S Channabasappa,P J Puttamma c/o P S Jayadevappa, P V Snehalatha bin P S Jayadevappa (1/3A1B),C K Manjunath MadanKumar(1/3A1A), S P Manjunatha bin Prahaladashetty (1/3A2), Karnataka rajyapaalara paravaagi kshethra shikshanaadhikaarigalavaru, shikshana ilaakhe, chitradurga, Shree Dr. Shivamoorthy murugha sharanaru peethadhipathigalu shree murugha mutha(1/4A). 1 (1/1, 1/3A1B, 1/3A1A, 1/3A2,1/4A)
2	15	Private	Dry	0.1862	T Madappa bin Dodda Thimmappa, Ravikumar bin Dodda Thimmappa, Dasappa T bin Dodda Thimmappa, N Mahantesh bin Late Ningappa, N Madappa bin Late Ningappa, N Thippeswamy bin Late Ningappa, Bhagya bin Late Ningappa, S Umesh bin Late Siddappa, Bharathamma bin Late Siddappa,Ramesh bin Late Siddappa,Kenchamma bin Late Siddappa, Sannappa T bin Late Thippeswamy, T Mamatha bin Late Thippeswamy, Madamma bin Late Ningappa, Satish S bin Late Siddappa,Lakshmi S bin Late Siddappa, Lakshmana S bin Late Siddappa, Annapoorna C/o N Dasappa, Shivamma C/o Late Challakerappa, Giriyappa bin Late Nagappa, Shivanna bin Late Javanappa, Thippamma bin Late Javanappa,Thulasamma bin Late Javanappa(15/1 Dry), C Basappa bin Late Channabasappa, R Ningappa bin Late Rudrappa, R Srinivasa bin Late Rudrappa (15/2 NAK), R Shivanna bin Late Rudrappa (15/13 NAK).15 (15/1,15/2,15/13)
3	2	Private	Dry	0.2335	Shree Dr. Shivamoorthy Murugha Sharanaru, Peetadhipathigalu shree Muruga Matha (2/1), Shree Dr. Shivamoorthy Murugha Sharanaru, Peetadhipathigalu shree Muruga Matha (2/2), Kanumappa bin Kanumappa yaane Kaniveppa Hanumanthappa bin Kanumappa yaane Kaniveppa (2/5). 2 (2/1,2/2,2/5)
Taluk: Holalkere					
Village: Halehalli					
4	59	Private	Dry	0.0832	Venkatesh Bin Ramappa (59/2), K S Siddaramappa bin Late K S Sanna Katappa Joint (59/3), Basavaraj, Rangaswamy, Bhagya, Thimmesha, Raaju bin Late Dyavarappa Joint (59/4), Lalithamma c/o Late Chitappa (59/5) 59 (59/2,3,4,5)
5	60	Private	Dry	0.0811	Kaatalingappa bin Doddappa (60/3), M C Raamaswamy bin Chandrappa (60/4) 60 (60/3,4)
6	63	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry	0.291	Gomala, Residential plots issued by Grama Panchayat,Madderu.
Village: Kudineerakatti					
7	24	Private	Dry	0.145	Prema c/o Late Mahalingappa, Chandrashekhar bin Halappa, Prema C bin Late Channappa, C Sarojamma bin Late Channappa, Sakamma C bin Late Channappa.
8	26	Common (Government/ Private)	Dry	0.3873	Rajappa Bin Gaviyappa
9	27	Private	Dry	0.1647	Parvathamma c/o Onkarappa (27/1), Girijamma c/o Late T E Basavarajappa (27/2) 27(27/1,2)
10	85	Private	Dry	0.1284	E Honnurappa bin Erappa (85/1), Gangamma c/o Late Rangappa (85/2), Rudramma c/o Kanthappa (85/3), R Sundaramma c/o Late Parameshwarappa (85/4), Devendrappa bin Late Erappa (85/5). 85 (85/1,2,3,4,5)
11	89	Private	Dry	0.0926	K H Lingaraaju bin Hanumanthappa, K H Shashirekha bin Hanumanthappa
Village: Holalkere					
12	218	Government	Dry	0.3118	Governement
			Total	2.2625	

[F. No. RW/NH-37014/1/2010-NHDP-4A/3D2]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

ED checks bank locker of Pinarayi's daughter

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Officials of the Enforcement Directorate on Friday checked the bank locker of former chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter Veena T in connection with the probe into the Rs 2.78 crore she received from a controversial mining firm.

Veena T

The fresh move followed hours-long questioning of Veena at the ED office in Kochi on Wednesday. ED officials, accompanied by Veena, carried out the check at the locker of a bank in the city.

Vijayan reacted that it was only part of the ongoing probe. "Let them check and see if there are any big things in the locker," he told reporters.

The ED's move assumes significance as BJP and Congress allege that the shady payments by the controversial mining firm Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited were illegal gratification to Vijayan.

IN BRIEF

NE next engine of growth: Nirmala

▸ **BHOIRYMBONG (MEGHALAYA), PTI:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the North East has the potential to become India's next engine of growth by leveraging its strengths in sustainable agriculture and premium organic produce.

Nirmala Sitharaman in Meghalaya on Friday. PTI

She asserted that Meghalaya is uniquely positioned to lead because of the trust it commands in global markets. Inaugurating the North East's largest organic spice processing plant of the Eastern Ri-Bhoi Organic Farmer Producer Company Ltd here, Sitharaman said, "The future of agriculture increasingly belongs not to those who produce the most, but to those who produce the best—cleaner, more traceable, more trusted and more premium."

"When Meghalaya's farmers rise, the North East rises. And when the North East rises, India's growth acquires a new engine," she said. She said the state's growing spice economy shows "economic growth and ecological stewardship can advance together".

Wait 15 days, truth will come out: Yogi

▸ **LUCKNOW, DHNS:** On Friday, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urged the 'Rambhakts' to 'wait' for the findings of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the purported 'embezzlement' of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, advising against any acts of 'character assassination'.

"You (Rambhakts) waited for 500 years for the Ram Temple... now wait for just 15 days (the SIT has been asked to submit its final report in a fortnight)," Adityanath said while speaking at a religious event in Ayodhya. "Don't defame Ayodhya... some people are unable to digest the development of Ayodhya," he added.

The chief minister said if anyone had proof of the misdeed, then he should hand it over to SIT.

'Donation fraud' at Mathura temple

▸ **LUCKNOW, DHNS:** Following the allegations of 'embezzlement' concerning funds at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, a well-known Hindu seer has now alleged similar 'embezzlement' regarding donations at the Shree Krishna Janmasthan Temple in Mathura and has called for a CBI investigation.

Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Sangharsh Nyas president Dinesh Sharma alias Falahari Baba has reportedly written a letter, in blood, to chief minister Yogi Adityanath, alleging that the CCTV cameras are switched off when the 'golak' (cash donation boxes) are opened and offerings are counted.

Sharma was one of the plaintiffs in the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Idgah Masjid case, pending in the court.

Guj: 7 doctors suspended for ragging

▸ **AHMEDABAD, DHNS:** Seven resident doctors of Bhavnagar Medical College have been suspended after they were found to be involved in harassing 13 junior students by the institute's anti-ragging committee.

Among many charges of physical and mental abuse, the seniors are alleged to have made them do sit-ups and were subjected to prolonged verbal abuse. Officials said 13 first-year postgraduate medical students in the Orthopaedic department at Sir Takhatsinhji General Hospital and Medical College had filed written complaints against their senior resident doctors.

Meanwhile, state Health Minister Praful Pansheriya said the state had "zero tolerance policy against ragging."

Sanshodhak, the fourth survey vessel, scheduled to be commissioned in Kolkata on June 21. PTI

PM Modi to commission 3 new naval ships

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will commission three new naval ships, including the stealth frigate Dunagiri at a ceremony in Kolkata on Sunday.

Other two ships to join the service are Sanshodhak, a survey vessel (large) and Agray, an Arnala-class anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft, official sources said here on Friday.

Dunagiri, the fifth Project 17A stealth frigate, is equipped with advanced weapons and sensors, including BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles and the medium range surface-to-air missile system, significantly enhancing the navy's combat capability.

Four of the seven P-17A ships have been commissioned in the last one and half years while the remaining two Mahendragiri and Vindhyagiri would be inducted later this year, sources said.

With 75% indigenous content the 6,670 tonnes stealth frigate marks a key milestone in naval design, stealth, firepower, automation and survivability.

Rozgar Yojana created over 70L jobs: Modi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday transferred incentives worth Rs 2,400 crore to around 15 lakh first-time employees and their employers under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY), as the scheme has already generated more than 70 lakh jobs across the country.

The funds were disbursed directly to beneficiaries' accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer system.

Addressing the event, Modi highlighted that the PM-VBRY not only creates employment but also provides social security cover to beneficiaries.

"Through PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, we are supporting employment generation and empowering youth," he said.

Armed factions, community resistance spoil peace efforts in Manipur

'Too many' organisations impediment to security forces' anti-militant operations

FROM THE GROUND

SUMIR KARMAKAR
IMPHAL, DHNS

Armed groups with multiple factions in both the valley and the hills, coupled with "too many" organisations representing communities from the village to the state level, are hindering peace efforts in conflict-torn Manipur, security officials told *DH* in Imphal.

A senior officer of a central force, posted in the state since 2024, said that even as efforts were being made to prevent further violence, rival factions often resorted to attacks, aggravating attempts to restore peace. He added that security forces, including the Army and Assam Rifles, were frequently confronted by members of local organisations during operations against militants or those involved in extortion and drug smuggling.

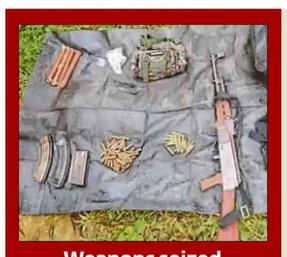
"For example, in the Kuki-dominated hills, at least 25 armed groups have been under the Suspension of Operations agreement with the government since 2008. While efforts continue to sign a final pact, some factions have resurfaced... When forces act on intelligence inputs, community-based groups often confront them. Many also spread fake news," he said.

On June 16, Assam Rifles and the Army launched an operation in Henglep area of Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district, where an UKNA cadre was killed. A rifle was seized from the militant. But community organisations claimed he was an "innocent civilian".

UKNA is an armed group operating in Kuki-dominated hill districts as well as in Myanmar. Similarly, in the Naga areas, a few armed groups are resorting to violence and extortion. Factions of NSCN, a Naga group that has been in ceasefire in Nagaland since 1997, are also engaged in extortion in Manipur, he said.

In the valley, most major armed groups remain outside the peace process. The officer suspects that members of small factions, which are opposed to peace efforts, were involved in the killing of two children at Tronglaobi.

"More than 1,000 cadres have been arrested... But these groups continue to induct youths left jobless by the long conflict in Manipur...We have dismantled several bunkers along the peripheral areas of Naga, Kuki and Meitei-dominated regions in recent months. But many remain, and the forces are unable to remove them completely due to strong resistance from community-level organisations," he added.



Weapons seized in Churachandpur on June 16.

HURDLE TO OPERATIONS

- Security forces face resistance during operations
- Over 1,000 cadres arrested, but jobless youths still recruited as 'village volunteers'
- Forces face community opposition in removing fortified positions
- Weapons haul raises doubts on ceasefire

NIA arrests 10 in conflict cases

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday arrested at least 10 people from the valley and the hill districts of Manipur for their alleged involvement in the conflict that has roiled the northeastern state since May 2023.

Manipur Police said the arrests were linked to cases of robbery at a Punjab National Bank, arms loot at the 5th Indian Reserve Battalion, the murder of a Hmar woman in Jiribam, the abduction and killing of four Kukis, an attack on CRPF personnel at Narainsena and an ambush on the chief minister's convoy.

They were arrested from Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Ukhrul, Chandel and Pherzawl. Imphal East, Imphal West and Bishnupur are Meitei-dominated districts, while Churachandpur and Pherzawl are Kuki-dominated. Nagas are dominant in Ukhrul and Chandel districts.

"Investigations in multiple cases revealed that the accused had played active roles in various incidents of violence during the period of ethnic unrest, including attacks on security forces, looting of arms and ammunition, and bank robberies," the NIA said in a statement.

"Today's operations were a major step towards supporting the government's efforts to restore peace, security and normalcy in the state," it said.

Trinamool moves to disqualify 20 rebels

Abhishek meets LS Speaker Birla, cites anti-defection law

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Trinamool Congress on Friday took the first step to disqualify 20 rebel MPs by submitting separate petitions against them, with its National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and explaining how they allegedly violated the anti-defection law.

After the nearly one-hour meeting, Abhishek told reporters that they expect the Speaker to act in accordance with the Constitution, as he is the custodian of Parliament and not the protector of the government of the day. He said they have urged the Speaker to decide the matter as quickly as possible according to the constitutional provisions.

Sources in the Lok Sabha Secretariat said the Speaker will decide after listening to all sides and examining all aspects before taking a final call. The Speaker would study judgements, some of them divergent in his opinion on the Tenth Schedule, and consult legal experts if necessary, they said.

The meeting of Abhishek along with Trinamool MPs Saugata Roy, Kalyan Banerjee and Mahua Moitra came after the former wrote to the Speaker on June 10 that they should be heard before taking any call on the request of the 20 rebel MPs to allot them separate seating in Lok Sabha as they intend to merge with little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI).

TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee addresses the media after a meeting with the Lok Sabha Speaker in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

The Trinamool claimed that it is the first time in Parliamentary history that separate disqualification petitions were submitted in Lok Sabha when a group of MPs were accused of defection.

600 pages of documents

Mahua handed over petitions and supporting documents running into around 600 pages to the Speaker's Office hours before the meeting.

Abhishek argued that the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution is clear that if a member voluntarily gives up their party membership, they are disqualified as MPs.

"Twenty people met the speaker and claimed they should be treated as a separate group. Later, we got to know those MPs claimed to have joined another party, NCPI; nobody has heard the name of the party. Even they had not heard the name of this party... So if they have been elected on a symbol and are claiming after two years that they are joining a new party, their membership should go," he said.

He argued that the MPs have attracted provisions of Paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule when they requested for separate seating, which "clearly says that if a member voluntarily gives up the membership of his party, that is one of the grounds for disqualification from the House".

HC notice in contempt case

The Calcutta High Court on Friday ordered serving notices to TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee in a contempt plea over alleged violation of the court's directive on blocking arterial roads during its July 21 Martyrs' Day rally last year, reports PTI.

The petitioner's lawyer, Srikanta Dutta, moved a division bench presided by Justice Arijit Banerjee, alleging contempt of the court's 2018 order, directing that gatherings on thoroughfares must not cause total blockage of the road.

Akhilesh questions Adityanath's Ayodhya visit amid probe

LUCKNOW, PTI

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday questioned Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to Ayodhya while an SIT probe is underway into alleged embezzlement of funds at the Ram Temple and claimed that the CM seemed less confidence in speech and downcast in outlook.

He also alleged that no attempt should be made to influence the probe into the allegations.

In a sharp post on X hours after Adityanath addressed a public gathering in Ayodhya, Yadav questioned whether Friday's programme had been planned suddenly or on the very day the special investigation team (SIT) was constituted.

"Why did today's speech contain more threats than statements? Was today's programme planned suddenly, or was it decided on the very day the SIT was constituted? Why are sources saying that local BJP MLAs and office-bearers insisted on organising this programme at short notice to save the BJP's political ground? Otherwise, not just the Ayodhya division but the BJP's rout across the whole of Uttar Pradesh is considered certain," Yadav posted on X.

Yadav also said it was not enough to separate "milk from water" (establish the truth). Rather, there must be a full accounting of "gold and silver," he said.

SC rejects plea for CBI probe into TN trust vote

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to entertain a petition seeking a CBI investigation into alleged irregularities and horse-trading during the May 13 trust vote in the TN Legislative Assembly.

The court observed that the plea was based on "casual allegations" and lacked any reliable material to substantiate the claims. The court made it clear that no grounds were made out for its interference.

The petition, filed by K K Ramesh, had sought a probe into the trust vote in which the C Joseph Vijay-led TVK government comfortably survived with the support of 25 rebel AIADMK MLAs.

The DMK had staged a walkout during the proceedings. The petitioner argued that the episode posed a serious threat to democracy.

DH DECIPHERS

Ayodhya fund row: Why the Tirumala model matters

The Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust is under scrutiny following allegations of crores of money missing from the donation boxes. Amid the row, the Ram Temple Construction Committee chairman, Nripendra Mishra, suggested adopting the Tirupati model, where the temple administration is run by a commissioner-rank officer. **S N V Sudhir** *explains how the country's wealthiest temple trust is administered.*

How did Tirumala's temple administration evolve over different periods?

The story of who controls Tirumala, in many ways, is the story of who controlled the Deccan. When Hindu kingdoms fell, Karnataka's Muslim rulers moved in, followed by the British. But the East India Company's direct involvement eventually drew fire from its London-based Court of Directors, which was uneasy at the sight of Company officials presiding over Hindu rituals. In 1843, the Company handed over the shrine and its estates to Sri Seva Dossji of the Hathiramji Mutt. The Mahants ran it till 1933, when the Madras Legislature decided that religious administration was too consequential to leave to hereditary clerics. A dedicated law created the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Committee, with a government-appointed commissioner at the helm. A board of trustees was put in place by 1951, laying the foundations of the arrangement that the Andhra Pradesh government operates to this day.

What is the TTD?

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is not a private trust but a statutory body of the Andhra Pradesh government. It administers the Venkateswara temple along with eleven other temples and their sub-shrines and runs a payroll of roughly 14,000 employees. On an ordinary day, between 70,000 and 80,000 pilgrims visit the main shrine, and on festival days, that figure crosses a lakh. The offering box (Hundi) takes in Rs 3-4 crore of donations daily, adding up to somewhere between Rs 1,300 and Rs 1,400 crore a year.

Who runs TTD today?

Two distinct layers of authority sit at the top. A trust board, appointed by the state government and currently chaired by media entrepreneur BR Naidu with 23 members from political, judicial, religious and business circles, including a former Chief Justice of India, sets the policy. The responsibility for day-to-day operations rests with the executive officer (EO), a serving IAS officer of commissioner rank, who also serves as the board's member-secretary. The EO oversees finances, security, pilgrim welfare and general administration, supported by joint executive officers; a financial advisor and chief accounts officer; a chief vigilance and security officer; a chief engineer; and a conservator of forests. On paper, tenures run five to seven years. In practice, the post has become something of a revolving door as TTD has seen three EOs in under a year. Incumbent Muddada Ravichandra, a 1996-batch officer, took charge in February 2026 after his predecessor was transferred mid-term during the ghee adulteration controversy.

How did this structure come about?

The architecture of TTD's governance did not arrive fully formed. For decades after 1933, the Madras Act's framework held, but its ambitions were narrow, such as channelling temple funds toward secular goals rather than respecting what donors actually intended. When Andhra Pradesh was carved out in 1953, it initially carried forward the 1951 Madras endowments law but subsequently replaced it with its own Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act in 1966. This act set up an 11-member Board of Trustees and created the post of Hindu Executive Officer as chief executive, the forerunner of today's EO. By the late 1970s, this structure had also outgrown as TTD's resources ballooned, but decisions were sluggish, and oversight through the state endowments commissioner was inadequate. A standalone law followed in 1979. It was sharpened further into the TTD Act of 1987, which has been the governing statute since then.

Does the model guarantee clean administration?

Not exactly as seen in recent years. TTD's own record makes the point clearly. The speed with which officers moved out during the laddu row showed how bureaucratic oversight, however well designed, cannot fully insulate a high-stakes institution from political weather. But on the positive side, the structure does provide a genuine separation between those who set the policy and those who execute it, with a professional administrator who is at least answerable for daily operations. Such a separation, critics of the Ayodhya arrangement argue, is precisely what is missing there.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
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No. 2988] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026/JYAISTHA 25, 1948

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 12th June, 2026

S.O. 3109(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, 6007(E) Dated:24/12/2025 , published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Subsection (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening / four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No 13 in the stretch of land from Km 422.00 to Km 523.600 (Chitradurga - Shimoga Section) in the district of SHIVAMOGGA in the state of KARNATAKA

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "The Times of India" dated 01/01/2026 , "Prajavani" dated 01/01/2026 ; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE : Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the stretch of land from Km. 422.00 to Km. 523.600 (Chitradurga - Shimoga Section) of NH13 in the district of SHIVAMOGGA in the state of KARNATAKA

State: KARNATAKA			District: SHIVAMOGGA		
S. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Hectares)	Name of Land Owner/Interested Person
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Bhadravati					
Village: Yedehalli					
1	54	Private	Dry/Wet	0.0226	MC Suresh bin MG Chandrashekarappa
Village: Kenganalu					
2	1	Private	Dry/Wet	0.60703	Dhananjaya let Siddappa Chandrappa let Siddappa Madhuchandra let Sathish chandra
Village: Agaradahalli					
3	56	Private	Dry/Wet	0.02	Pramila SS Bin Kemparaja103/1
4	56	Private	Dry/Wet	0.0655	Rathnamma let SG Balachandrappa S B Chidananda let SG Balachandrappa Sadananda let SGBalachandrappa Sujatha let SG Balachandrappa 102
Village: Basavapura					
5	3	Private	Dry/Wet	0.0226	Rathnamma let SG Balachandrappa S B Chidananda let SG Balachandrappa Sadananda let SGBalachandrappa Sujatha let SG Balachandrappa
			Total	0.73773	

[F. No. RW/NH-37014/1/2010-NHDP-4A/3D1]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

Lebanon, Israel to hold talks in US

Washington talks next week follow fresh violence

WASHINGTON/BEIRUT, REUTERS

The next round of Lebanon-Israel talks will be held in Washington from June 23–25, the US State Department said on Friday, as deadly violence in Lebanon heightened concerns over the fragile agreement aimed at ending the war between the US and Iran.

The announcement followed a call between US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun. Rubio reiterated the need to disarm Hezbollah and reaffirmed US support for Lebanon's efforts to establish a fully sovereign state at peace with its neighbours, State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said.

Israel said it launched more than 150 strikes across southern and eastern Lebanon on Friday after Hezbollah fighters killed four Israeli troops in an ambush in southern Lebanon. Lebanon's health ministry reported casualties in nearly two dozen towns, while Aoun accused Israel of targeting "innocent civilians".

The escalation has put fresh pressure on the US-Iran deal, which calls for fighting to cease on all fronts, including Lebanon.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
Israeli prime minister

"Israel will not tolerate attacks on our soldiers or our territory, and it will exact a very heavy price from Hezbollah for these attacks. Israel will remain in the security zone in southern Lebanon for as long as necessary.

Iran asks ships to register

A new Iranian authority charged with overseeing the strait issued guidance on Friday calling on ships to register with it even as transits are currently free - signalling Tehran's intent to likely start charging, AP/PTI reports from Dubai. The notice came from the Persian Gulf Strait Authority, a new agency in the Islamic Republic.

Iranian 'red lines'

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the US, Israel's closest ally, bore "direct responsibility" for the latest escalation and warned that Tehran would take all necessary measures to protect its, security and allies. Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf also said talks with the US would remain bound by Tehran's "red lines". "As we have shown in the past path of negotiations, we are steadfast in fulfilling the conditions and red lines set, and in achieving the interests of the Iranian nation," Ghalibaf said. "If the enemy seeks to be excessive, we have proven that our fingers are on the trigger and we have no hesitation in giving a crushing response to the enemy."

Smoke billows from southern Lebanon following an Israeli strike, as seen from Nabatieh on Friday. REUTERS

New Labour Party MP for Makerfield, Andy Burnham, speaks to supporters and members of the media, the morning after his by-election victory, in Ashton, England, on Friday. AFP

Starmer faces fresh leadership challenge after Burnham win

Embattled British PM vows fight to keep his job

LONDON, AP/PTI

Labour's Andy Burnham, the current mayor of Greater Manchester, has won a special election for a seat in Parliament, putting him in a position to challenge embattled Prime Minister Keir Starmer for leadership of the country.

Burnham decisively won the seat of Makerfield in northwest England over Rob Kenyon of the anti-immigration party Reform UK. The victory, announced early Friday, cements the status of Burnham, a 56-year-old politician nicknamed the King of the North, as the top contender to replace Starmer as leader of the Labour Party and the country.

Burnham won almost 55% of the 45,510 votes cast in a field of more than a dozen candidates, more than 9,000 ahead of runner-up Kenyon.

Burnham's victory speech left no doubt that he wants to lead the country, and not just be one of the more than 400 Labour lawmakers in the 650-seat House of Commons. "Everyone knows that politics isn't working," he said.

"Everyone can feel that the country isn't where it should be. Tonight could, just could, be the turning point."

Starmer congratulated Burnham, writing on X that voters "chose Labour's campaign of hope and optimism over division and hate." But he insisted he would fight attempts to oust him.

"Yes, I will run, I will stand," if there is a Labour leadership contest, Starmer said. "I've said repeatedly I'm not going to walk away from that."

Burnham has led Manchester since 2017, overseeing rapid regeneration in the city where the Industrial Revolution was forged. He is pledging to repeat his signature brand of "Manchesterism" on a national scale.

Burnham said Labour had "a final chance to change" and win back voters' trust.

"But it is a chance now, from this result tonight, to build a new politics based on unity and hope, turning away from the path that takes us to a divided, dark politics of the kind we see in the United States," he said.

Shutdown in PoK again after region's deadliest unrest in years

MUZAFFARABAD, REUTERS: A territory-wide shutdown in Pakistan-administered Kashmir has brought daily life to a standstill after the region's deadliest unrest in years left at least 24 people dead in nearly two weeks of protests.

The confrontation between local authorities and supporters of the recently banned Joint Awami Action Committee poses a sensitive challenge for Islamabad, which frequently criticises Delhi's handling of dissent in Indian-administered Kashmir but is now facing anger in the territory under its own control. The unrest began ahead of a June 9 strike called by the JAAC in protest against the reservation of 12 seats for refugees in the July 27 elections to the region's 45-seat legislative assembly. The refugees live in Pakistan after being displaced from Indian-administered Kashmir.

Protests had already intensified in the days before the shutdown, with government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, saying at least 20 civilians were killed between June 6 and June 14 and dozens more wounded. Regional police chief Liaqat Ali Malik said four officers had been killed and 97 wounded in clashes with protesters, while 515 people had been detained.

Thousands of JAAC supporters are now camped on the outskirts of Rawalakot, about 100 km south of Muzaffarabad, the regional capital.

White House delays release of voting machine study

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: White House officials have for months delayed the release of a US government report that outlines what it describes as significant vulnerabilities in the nation's voting machines ahead of the November midterms, according to three sources familiar with the matter.

The report, produced by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, concludes that voting machines could be further safeguarded by updating their software, the sources said. It does not say the vulnerabilities have led to votes being flipped, but examines security gaps in how the machines are used. Some officials argued the report could undermine voter confidence.

'Italy and I do not beg': Meloni rips into Trump over photo remark

ROME, AP/PTI

The Italian government closed ranks on Friday to slam US President Donald Trump over his claim that Premier Giorgia Meloni had "begged" for a photo with him during the recent G7 summit, a pushback that suggested the longtime US ally had had enough of Trump's boasting.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani abruptly cancelled a planned trip to the US this weekend, calling Trump's claims "serious and offensive" towards Meloni and all of Italy.

Meloni, for her part, posted a video calling Trump's claims "completely fabricated" and expressing astonishment that he would invent such things about an ally. She concluded: "Italy and I do not beg."

US President Donald Trump with Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni during the G7 summit in Evian, France, on Wednesday. AFP

Trump had made the comments in an interview broadcast on Friday morning on the La7 network.

The La7 correspondent had asked Trump about Ukraine, but Trump raised Meloni and the conversation turned to their meeting during the just-concluded G7 meeting in Evian-les-Bains, France. Meloni and Trump were filmed speaking at several moments, including alone on a small sofa.

According to La7, Trump said Meloni had "begged" him for a photo opportunity. Trump said he wasn't obliged to do it but felt sorry for her and agreed, La7 said.

Meloni said she was responding to Trump's claims because "certain things deserve an immediate response". "Donald Trump's statements are completely fabricated. I am frankly stunned," she said. "I don't know why the president of the United States behaves this way towards his own allies. After all, this isn't the first time this has happened."

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Palestinian landowners, who say some of their land was taken for the newly built Mount Tarousa settlement (background), run after being fired by Israeli forces near Dura, West Bank on Friday. AFP

UN reports record violations of children in conflict zones

▸ A new United Nations report said that nearly 25,000 children caught in conflict were victims of a record number of violations last year, including killings, rape and recruitment into armed conflict, AP/PTI reports from the United Nations.

For the first time, government forces — not armed groups — were the main perpetrators, the report said. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' annual report, released this week, contains a blacklist of violators against children: government forces from eight nations and 67 armed groups from 16 countries and territories. The number of violations — which also include abductions, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access — rose for a fourth straight year to 38,558, according to the report, which is based on verified UN data. It said 24,174 children, a third of them girls, were affected, with several thousand subjected to multiple violations. "The scale and persistence of these violations demand more than acknowledgment — they demand resolve," the UN special representative for children in armed conflict, Vanessa Frazier, said in an analysis of the report.

Zelenskyy stripped of honour

▸ Ukraine on Friday denounced Poland's decision to strip President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of the country's highest honour over a historical memory dispute, calling the move a "strategic mistake" and "disrespectful", AFP reports from Kyiv/Warsaw.

Poland's nationalist President Karol Nawrocki announced that he was revoking Zelenskyy's Order of the White Eagle, the country's top award, which had been bestowed on the Ukrainian leader three years ago. In a video statement posted on the Polish presidency's X account, Nawrocki said he was stripping Zelenskyy of the honour amid a row over a World War II massacre.

A health worker prepares to disinfect an area during the burial of Ebola victims at the Kigonze displaced persons camp in Bunia, Congo, on Friday. REUTERS

Ebola outbreak deaths top 200

▸ The Ebola outbreak in Congo and Uganda has claimed more than 200 lives in its first month and is the worst-known outbreak at this stage, with up to 35,000 potential contacts, AP/PTI reports from Dakar.

With 894 confirmed cases so far, the current outbreak is three times worse than a previous outbreak in Uganda in 2000, which had 281 cases at the same point, said Dr Wessam Mankoula, a medical epidemiologist at Africa CDC. The latest number of cases is believed to be higher because the outbreak was confirmed on May 15, weeks after it was suspected to have begun. The number of cases has increased 38% since last week and has now spread to 32 zones across eastern Congo, Mankoula said.

Bimal Patel elected ITLOS judge

▸ Eminent Indian jurist Bimal Patel has been elected as a judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, PTI reports from United Nations.

Patel is a member of the UN International Law Commission, Chairman of the Working Group on Succession of States in Respect of State Responsibility, and Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Public International Law at Rashtriya Raksha University. He is also a member of the National Security Advisory Board, National Security Council Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office. "Congratulations to Prof. Dr Bimal N Patel for being elected as Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in New York today. His election takes forward India's enduring commitment to multilateralism and the Law of the Sea," the Permanent Mission of India to the UN said on Thursday.

A woman holds Marjane Satrapi's book "Persepolis" during a memorial ceremony for the late Franco-Iranian artist in Paris on Friday. REUTERS

India labels Pakistan a 'Frankenstein state' at UN

UNITED NATIONS, PTI

India has slammed Pakistan at the United Nations, calling it a "Frankenstein state" that gets shocked when its "own monster bites back", as it accused Islamabad of "hosting, training and deploying" terrorists.

The remarks were made by Anupama Singh, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, on Wednesday after Pakistan and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir during the Interactive Dialogue on the UN High Commissioner's annual report.

"India is compelled to exercise this right of reply in response to references made to it by Pakistan and the OIC. We categorically reject the baseless and malicious allegations made by Pakistan," Singh said.

The diplomat further said: "We also categorically reject the references to Jammu and Kashmir made by the OIC... For the record, Jammu and Kashmir was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India. The only unresolved issue is Pakistan's illegal occupation of Indian territories and their return." She also said that Pakistan is a country whose sitting defence minister "boasts of hosting, training and deploying terrorists as state policy".

"This should surprise no one. An illegal and illegitimate occupation can be sustained only through force," Singh said. "This is a country whose sitting Defence Minister boasts of hosting, training and deploying terrorists as state policy, and yet Pakistan calls itself a victim of terrorism."

The diplomat further said: "Indeed, a paradox which only Pakistan could sustain. It is a living example of a Frankenstein state, which is shocked when its own monster bites back."

She also said that "denial of basic freedoms has brought matters to a point where even demands for bread, electricity, rights and dignity are met with bullets and brutality."

Singh also mentioned the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, calling it "outdated".

"Our position on the Indus Waters Treaty is well known. It defies logic that a state which exports terror as an instrument of policy continues to demand the privileges of cooperation predicated on goodwill and friendship," Singh said.

The decades-old treaty was suspended after the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025 that killed 26 civilians.

ನಗರಸಭೆ
ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಜಿ, ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸಚಿ/ತಾಶಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/14/2026–27, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.06.2026 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ 2000 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಐ.ಡಿ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಟಿ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇಸ್ಮೆಂಟ್, ನೆಲ ಅಂತಸ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ಮೊದಲನೇ ಅಂತಸ್ತು ತರಕಾರಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮಾಡಲು ಯೋಜನಾ ವರದಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಮಾಲೋಚಕರನ್ನು (ಪಿಎಂಸಿ) ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: (1)** DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58933 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.06.2026 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 17:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22.06.2026** ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ **11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:106/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/02/2026-27 **Date: 17-06-2026**

RE-E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Re-Tenders are invited for the **Purchase of CT SCAN 128 Slice Equipment for Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur & Vijayapura Super Speciality Hospital.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded & applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 19-06-2026
Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 06-07-2026 at 11.30 AM
Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 20-07-2026 before 5.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 21-07-2026 at 5.00 PM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

Sd/- Director
DIPR/CP/1260/Adverto/2026-27 Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526PA : 8147796539.
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com

No. BMCRC/SUP/TEND/INJ/12/2026-27/Call-2/99
DATE: 16.06.2026

RE e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenderis invited from theeligible Bidders for Supply of Injectionsto Medical College Hospital, BMCRC, Ballarion Rate Contract for a period of One yearunder Two bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inof Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested Bidders are informed to submit the proposal in priscribed format in above said e-portal on are before 30.06.2026 @5.00PM. The total approximate cost of tender is Rs.135.27Lakhs Further details may be obtained in the above said website and www.bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/260

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: 952/GADAG/EE(E)/2026-27/1498 Date: 18.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites following Office tenders pertaining to Operation Division, Gadag:
1) Supplying of 33kV Lightening Arrester at 110kV Station Konnur. **2)** Supplying of 03 No's of 11kV Current Transformers for 11kV Bank & feeder at 110kV S/s Dambal. **3)** Supplying of Maintenance Material at 110kV Station Dambal. **4)** Supplying of Maintenance Material at 400kV Station Doni. **5)** Supplying of Electrical Insulation Mats & Rubber Hand Gloves to 110kV S/s Naragunda, 110kV S/s Konnur, 110kV S/s Sambapur Road & 110KV S/s Betageri. **6)** Providing of Spare Siemens make Numerical relays at 110kV S/s Naragunda. **7)** Overhauling of station Battery Charger of 110/33/11kV Mundaragi & 110/11kV S/s Shingataluru. **8)** Repair/Replacement of Damaged Door Locks and Hinges of 11kV Outdoor breaker panels. Enquiry Details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned from **20.06.2026 at 10:00 Hrs. onwards.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele),
Operation Division, KPTCL, Bapuji Nagar, Gadag.

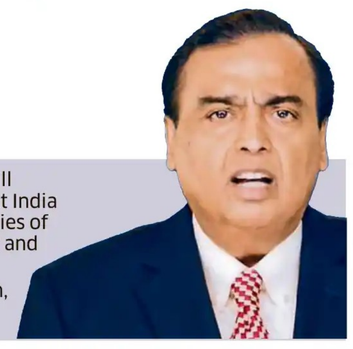
49TH AGM : Public issue set to test India's appetite for digital giants; A brighter future awaits Jio

Reliance's Jio files for India's largest IPO, seeks $137 bn valuation

Telecom Trail
The announcement, which was made at Reliance's AGM, marks a major step for India's largest telecom and digital company

1. Jio Platforms' board has cleared the DRHP, which filed with Sebi
2. The IPO will include a fresh issue of up to 27 crore shares of Rs 10 each
3. The listing aims to unlock value from Jio's telecom and digital business
4. Strong interest is expected due to Jio's leadership in telecom and digital services

> The proposed listing of Jio will demonstrate to the world that India can build technology companies of global scale, global capability and global value.
> **Mukesh Ambani,** Chairman, Reliance Industries



MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

In this screengrab from a video, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani addresses the 49th Annual General Meeting of Reliance Industries Limited, in Mumbai on Friday. PTI

Jio Platforms Ltd, the digital services arm of Reliance Industries, filed draft papers on Friday for what could become India's largest-ever initial public offering (IPO), seeking to raise about $4 billion (Rs 37,700 crore) and valuing the company at roughly $137 billion (Rs 12.93 lakh crore).

According to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP), Jio Platforms plans to issue up to 27 crore new shares, with a face value of Rs 10 each, representing about 2.9% of its post-issue equity capital.

Addressing the 49th annual general meeting of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani said the Jio IPO is the company's most significant value-creation event of the year, adding that the listing would unlock value for Reliance shareholders while offering new investors an opportunity to participate in the company's growth.

"With great delight, let me tell you that the Board of Jio Platforms has approved the DRHP earlier today, and it will be filed with Sebi today," Ambani said on Friday. "Akash, Isha and Anant are heading the Jio IPO process and will lead the next generation of value-creation opportunities in the future."

Positioning the offering as more than a capital-raising exercise, Ambani said the proposed listing would showcase India's ability to build technology enterprises of global scale.

"The proposed listing of Jio will demonstrate to the world that India can build technology companies of global scale, global capability and global value," he said. "I assure you, and all prospective new investors, that a brighter future awaits Jio."

The IPO will be the first public offer from the group since 2008 and the first-ever for a consumer-focused company within the conglomerate.

The IPO is aimed at unlocking value from Jio Platforms, whose businesses span telecommunications, digital services, enterprise solutions and emerging technology ventures. Its telecom unit, Reliance Jio Infocomm, is the world's second-largest mobile operator by subscribers within a single country, behind China's China Mobile. Meta and Google are among the company's largest foreign investors.

National Stock Exchange (NSE) - the country's largest bourse and the world's most active derivatives exchange - has also filed papers to raise as much as $ 3.3 billion.

Jio Platforms reported a revenue of Rs 1,46,885 crore and a profit after tax of Rs 30,000 crore in FY26.

The digital services company has previously attracted some of the world's largest technology and private equity investors.

It raised approximately Rs 74,745 crore for around a 15.2% stake from a marquee group of global financial sponsors, sovereign investors and strategic investors, including Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG, L Catterton, PIF, Intel Capital and Qualcomm Ventures.

RIL currently owns a 66.43% stake in Jio Platforms, while Meta holds 9.98%. Google holds a 7.73% stake and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund owns 2.31%.

(With inputs from PTI)

India must become creator, adopter & global leader in AI: Ambani

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

India should not be a mere consumer of AI created elsewhere; it must become a creator, adopter and global leader in AI, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Friday.

Speaking at Reliance Industries' 49th AGM, Ambani called on young engineers to build for India. Last year, the company announced Reliance Intelligence as its newest growth engine, and Ambani told shareholders that the idea offers an even bigger opportunity to young engineers.

"Come, build with us. And build for India. Build AI that serves humanity; AI that is powerful, trusted, yet affordable; AI that is fluent in every Indian language; AI that empowers farmers, students, doctors, shopkeepers, workers, creators, and families; AI that improves efficiency while creating more opportunities to work and prosper for every Indian; AI that contributes to productivity and job creation," he said.

"Jio is already embedding AI in consumer technology to deliver a smoother, smarter, and more personalised user experience. AI will make our networks more efficient, our homes more intelligent, our customer service more responsive, and our platforms more useful to every Indian," he noted.

Talking about Reliance Intelligence, a new chapter in Reliance's deep-tech evolution, he said the first priority is to surmount the biggest hurdle for AI in India today — the scarcity and high cost of compute.

To address it, Reliance Intelligence is building the country's sovereign AI backbone in Jamnagar. "This cutting-edge infrastructure will be powered entirely by clean energy from Reliance's own solar generation from the Kutch renewable platform. The first 120 MW will be commissioned by the end of 2026. In addition, we are operationalising an initial fleet of advanced NVIDIA GB300 GPUs. This next-generation compute capacity is equivalent to more than 75,000 H100 GPUs on an AI-inference basis," he said.

As the first 120 MW becomes fully-operational, this capacity can scale to over 2 lakh H100-equivalent GPUs. "This capacity places Reliance among the largest AI infrastructure platforms being built anywhere in the world. When compute becomes affordable, innovation becomes inevitable," he said.

Reliance Intelligence is building trusted, affordable, and multilingual AI services, designed to be accessible in 22 Indian languages.

Reliance Retail to build manufacturing, export platforms

NEW DELHI, PTI: Reliance Retail Director Isha Ambani said the company expects its newly demerged FMCG arm Reliance Consumer Product Ltd (RCPL), to touch revenue of Rs 1 lakh crore in next four years, by 2030.

RCPL achieved gross revenue of Rs 22,000 crore, growing 2x YoY. It is positioning itself ahead of changing consumer trends by leveraging innovation, manufacturing scale and distribution strength as key growth drivers.

Isha Ambani

"RCPL has invested around Rs 10,000 crore so far to build its manufacturing capabilities, with beverage production now spread across 12 states through high-speed bottling facilities and multiple greenfield plants," she said.

RCPL, which was demerged from Reliance Retail Ventures in December 2025 and became a direct subsidiary of RIL, is also developing integrated food parks across India that will house production lines for categories such as biscuits, chocolates, staples, and packaged foods.

"Looking ahead, RCPL plans to invest an additional Rs 30,000 crore over the next three years to create one of Asia's largest networks of AI-driven and robotics-enabled integrated food parks, strengthening its long-term cost competitiveness," she said.

State approves projects worth Rs 7,506 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: The State Level Single Window Clearance Committee (SLSWCC), at its meeting on Friday, approved 55 industrial projects involving a total investment of Rs 7,506 crore with a potential to create 28,000 jobs. Of these, 41 projects will be located outside Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts as part of the Karnataka Government's 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiative, said Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil.

M B Patil

Providing details of the meeting, Patil said four of the approved proposals involve FDI. Taiwan-based Teaming Automation, South Korea's YJ Link, Germany's Revum and Japan-based Shinko will invest Rs 20 crore, Rs 177.96 crore, Rs 16.50 crore, and Rs 100 crore, respectively, taking the total FDI investment to Rs 314.46 crore. These projects are expected to generate 503 jobs.

Most of the approved projects are in the aerospace, ESDM (Electronics System Design and Manufacturing) and general engineering sectors, he said. Of the approved proposals, 35 projects involve investments of more than Rs 50 crore each, while another 15 projects will attract investments ranging between Rs 15 crore and Rs 50 crore.

EYEING SKY

Jio Platforms targets India's Starlink moment with sovereign LEO constellation

TEJASWINI S
BENGALURU, DHNS

Jio Platforms is planning to launch a sovereign Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation and developing ground station infrastructure in India, Managing Director Akash Ambani said on Friday. The move marks Jio's entry into satellite broadband, a market led globally by operators such as Starlink and Eutelsat OneWeb.

Announcing the plan at Reliance Industries' 49th AGM on Friday, Akash said satellite communications would become the company's next connectivity focus after terrestrial digital infrastructure. "Jio connected India on the ground. Now, we must connect India from the skies," he added.

He said the initiative is aimed at extending connectivity to remote villages, island communities and border regions, where terrestrial networks remain difficult to deploy.

Jio plans a dual-track strategy. It will evaluate building a sovereign LEO constellation, while leasing capacity from global satellite providers to accelerate service availability.

The strategy resembles approaches adopted by international satellite broadband operators that combine constellation access with terrestrial infrastructure.

Akash Ambani

According to Eutelsat, its OneWeb network operates a constellation of LEO satellites and combines satellite capacity with existing communications infrastructure to deliver broadband services across land, sea and air.

Starlink also positions satellite broadband as a way to extend internet access to locations beyond conventional network reach, using LEO satellites and ground infrastructure to provide coverage.

As part of the initiative, Jio is developing ground station infrastructure in India.

"These ground stations will support our partner constellations, as well as our own future satellites, creating an end-to-end satellite broadband ecosystem from space to ground," Akash said.

"With this initiative, Jio is strengthening India's Atma Nirbharta in space, placing the country firmly on the global satellite broadband services map. All these initiatives show that the best of Jio is yet to come," he added.

Jio leads the Indian market with 524 million subscribers. Akash said Jio's 5G user-base crossed 268 million, making it the largest single-country 5G operator outside China, after adding 77 million subscribers during the year. He said the next phase of growth would focus on making JioTrue5G the base for India's next wave of digital adoption.

"Our dedicated network slicing will enable a new tier of high-performance connectivity for consumers and enterprises. Our cyclic beam-formed cell design significantly enhances coverage and capacity at high-footfall locations. Our target is to migrate all subscribers to 5G by 2030 while advancing India's leadership position in 6G standards," he said.

The announcement signals Jio's intent to build a space-based connectivity layer alongside its telecom and broadband businesses.

Inflationary risks amplified due to poor monsoon, El Niño conditions: RBI Guv

Cites duration of conflict, disruption in supply chains

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

> We need to be watchful of the inflation trajectory. Going forward, revision in retail prices of petrol and diesel in May would lead to higher fuel inflation in the coming months.
> **Sanjay Malhotra,** Governor, RBI

Below normal monsoon as predicted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and likely El Niño conditions have amplified the risks jump in food prices even though near-term outlook remains favourable on account of a good rabi crop and adequate stocks, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra has said.

In his intervention at the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held earlier this month, Malhotra noted that the headline retail inflation is likely to jump to the RBI's upper tolerance level of 6% in the third quarter of the current fiscal.

Despite the growing inflationary pressure, the RBI Governor pitched for a "wait and watch" approach in the monetary policy, as per minutes of the June 3-5 meeting released by the central bank on Friday.

"We need to be watchful of the inflation trajectory. Going forward, revision in retail prices of petrol and diesel in May would lead to higher fuel inflation in the coming months," he said. "While the near-term outlook for food prices remains favourable on account of a good rabi crop and adequate stocks, risks have amplified, especially from a below normal monsoon as predicted by the IMD and likely El Niño conditions," he added.

Malhotra listed four reasons for adopting the wait-and-watch approach on inflation management. There is high uncertainty in the assumptions made for projections of both inflation and growth on account of several reasons — the duration of the conflict and disruption in supply chains, the intensity and geographical spread of monsoons and their impact on energy, food and other commodity prices, he said.

Accenture's weak outlook flags slower deals, pricing pressure for Indian IT

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Deal delays and margin squeeze could be in store for Indian IT companies in the first quarter of this fiscal year after Accenture flagged a weaker-than-expected guidance.

The IT and consulting firm's cautious guidance signals that global clients are taking longer to sign contracts and negotiating harder on pricing — a trend that typically hits Indian IT firms next.

On Thursday, Accenture lowered its financial year ending August 2026 revenue growth guidance to 3-4% from 4-5% earlier. The cut triggered a sell-off in IT stocks on Friday, with Infosys sliding 6.69%, TCS 3.53% and HCLTech 2.74%.

Biswajit Maity, Sr Principal Analyst at Gartner, told *DH* that Accenture's revision of full-year growth guidance to 3-4% reinforces that the IT services market is not declining, but shifting toward more focused, high-impact spending. "For Indian IT service providers, Accenture's outlook is a significant industry signal. With Accenture often setting the pace for the sector, Indian firms such as TCS, Infosys, and HCLTech are likely to experience similar market dynamics — slower deal closures, pricing pressures, and heightened competition for high-value projects. The spotlight on AI-driven transformation also highlights the imperative for Indian providers to accelerate their investments in advanced technology areas," Maity said.

Enterprises continue to invest in large, AI-led transformation programmes, supported by strong large-deal momentum, while discretionary spending remains cautious. At the same time, managed services (5% growth) are outperforming consulting (1%), indicating a clear pivot toward cost-optimisation and run-the-business priorities, he said, adding that this aligns with what they see across the market: enterprise IT spending is being reshaped by AI adoption, evolving customer expectations, and the need for operational agility.

IT services firms will begin reporting Q1FY27 earnings next month, and analysts expect mixed results for the first quarter. Infosys has guided for revenue growth of 1.5% to 3.5% in constant currency (CC) terms for FY27, and an operating margin of 20% to 22%. HCLTech expects revenue growth guidance to be between 1% and 4% YoY in CC in FY27, and services revenue growth is expected to be between 1.5% and 4.5% YoY in CC.

Kanishk Agrawal, Chief Technology Officer at Judge Group, India, a global professional services and consulting firm, said Accenture has lowered its guidance due to growing caution regarding discretionary technology spending and a slowdown in clients' decision-making processes through major transformation projects. This will likely weigh on sentiment overall for the IT sector.

"Those firms that have a lot of exposure to cost-optimisation, cloud migration, AI-led efficiency and managed services should be able to perform well, despite macroeconomic headwinds. Revenue growth should remain modest, but margin management and deal wins will be important indicators to monitor. The quarter should showcase how well the sector can navigate through an uncertain global demand landscape," Agrawal noted.

Kumar Rajagopalan, Vice-President, Strategic Initiatives and Country Head India at Dexian, a talent and technology solutions company, said the results for Q1 are expected to show that the trend of "efficiency-first" spending is holding up as companies continue to focus on quantifiable business results rather than transformational expenditures.

Investors will be watching closely for indicators of the future direction of this sector through deal volumes, client commentary, and demand trends.

Oil shipments rise in Hormuz as US, Iran sign ceasefire deal

REUTERS

Oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz picked up on Friday after the United States and Iran signed a ceasefire deal, with Gulf producers preparing to raise exports despite concerns over conditions set by Tehran for using the vital waterway.

Washington and Tehran released the text of an interim agreement signed on Wednesday to end the conflict, although US President Donald Trump warned he could resume attacks and target Iranian officials if commitments are not honoured.

An LNG carrier reaches Dahej Port carrying over 62,000 metric tonnes of LNG, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on Friday. PTI

At least four tankers carrying crude, oil products and liquefied petroleum gas entered the strait on Friday, heading for Iraqi Gulf ports, according to MarineTraffic data.

A Japanese-owned crude tanker exited the strait after being delayed by the war and was bound for Japan. Separately, Indian-flagged crude supertankers Desh Vibhor and Desh Vaibhav had commenced voyages through the strait to India after days of disruption.

Vessels switch on signals

Ships resumed broadcasting positions as they transited Hormuz, after weeks of concealing movements by switching off transponders.

There were 25 commercial crossings through Hormuz on June 18 - the highest single-day count since April 18 and more than five times the average daily level of the first 10 days of June, AXS Marine data showed. Traffic remains well below the pre-conflict level of about 120 daily crossings.

Gulf oil producers were already active with tenders. Kuwait Petroleum Corp is offering crude for July delivery via a tender, a document showed on Friday, after lifting force majeure and announcing plans to ramp up output, while Abu Dhabi National Oil Company issued its fourth tender this month.

The US formally lifted its blockade of Iranian ports on Thursday.

"Mariners should be advised of the existence of mines and expect naval presence as clearance operations continue," the US navy-led Joint Maritime Information Center said late on Thursday.

Father to the RESCUE

Ashwin and Ashwini get up to mischief on a special day. Suryakumari Dennison tells you about it

Today might just as well be Feline's Day," complained Ashwini.

The Siamese cat, reposing on her lap, blinked in amazement. Ashwini ought to know, thought Tiddles, that every day was Feline's Day. He had to be petted and pampered all year round.

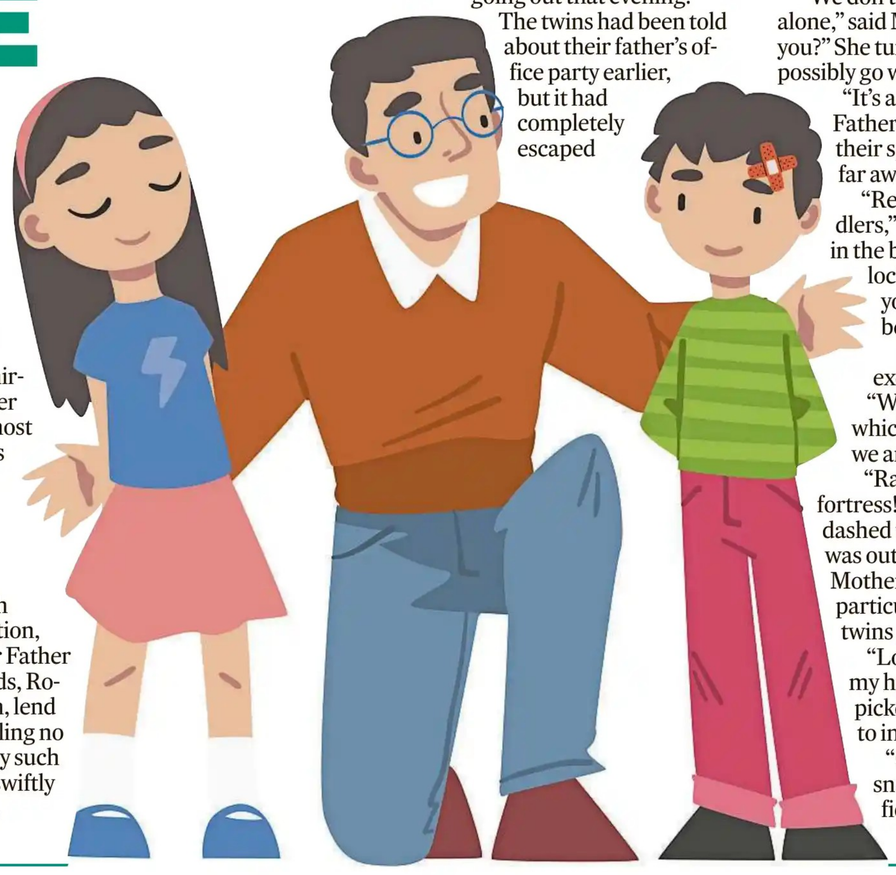
Ashwin tried to smile, but he too was downcast. In May, the twins had organised a Mother's Day treasure hunt. This month, they had been ready for some Father's Day fun, but their plans had misfired. If only they had got their father to attempt their Caesar Teaser first thing in the morning.

Even though, as the twins told each other, 'Julius Caesar' was not entertaining, it might be amusing to watch their father struggle with tough questions based on the play. Unlike his children, Father had apparently enjoyed studying Shakespeare. He often spoke of winning prizes at literary competitions for his "flawless rendition" (Father's phrase) of Mark Antony's famous speech. Thirty years later, Father claimed to recall most of the play from his schooldays.

Ashwin and Ashwini, who believed that the play should have ended halfway with Caesar's assassination, groaned whenever Father declaimed, "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears." Feeling no obligation to do any such thing, they would swiftly slip out of hearing.

Now, the twins had set a mean quiz; in fact, they themselves were not sure of the answers to the questions. When they sprang their surprise on Father, however, they were in for a disappointment; their parents were going out that evening.

The twins had been told about their father's office party earlier, but it had completely escaped their memory.



"I'm sorry," said Father, "but we can't avoid this commitment. Some senior people have come down from abroad, and my colleagues and I are expected to attend."

"We don't like leaving the two of you alone," said Mother. "You will be safe, won't you?" She turned to her husband. "Can you possibly go without me?" she asked.

"It's an important event, Maya," said Father. "Everyone will be there with their spouses. Don't worry, we won't be far away."

"Really, Mummy, we are not toddlers," snapped Ashwini, who was not in the best of moods. "Ashwin and I will lock the front door, and you can let yourselves in with your key. We'll be fast asleep before you return."

Left to themselves, the twins exchanged glances.

"What shall we do?" asked Ashwin, which meant, "What shall we do that we are not supposed to do?"

"Race you to the forbidden fortress!" yelled Ashwini, and the twins dashed to their parents' room, which was out of bounds when Father and Mother were out. There was nothing particularly exciting there, but the twins prowled about curiously.

"Look!" exclaimed Ashwin. "Mummy has forgotten her phone." He picked it up from the dressing-table to inspect it.

"Give it to me," said Ashwini, snatching it from Ashwin and fiddling with it. Ashwin made a grab for the phone, but Ashwini ran away. As Ashwin chased his sister across the room, the phone slid from Ashwini's grasp, fell to the floor and skidded under the bed.

Going down on all fours, Ashwin crawled under the bed in search of it. "Got it!" he said, then let out a cry.

"What's the matter?" said Ashwini, as Ashwin emerged, phone in hand.

Ashwin winced in pain. "I bumped my head on the edge of that old steel trunk," he said.

"It's bleeding," said Ashwini anxiously. "Wait, I'll fetch some water and cotton wool." She rushed downstairs to the medicine cabinet and was back in minutes. As she clumsily dabbed antiseptic on Ashwin's forehead, she burst into tears.

"What's the problem?" said a voice behind them, and the twins spun round to see their parents.

"We got sporadic calls from Mummy's number," explained Father. "We tried calling, but the phone had gone dead, so we drove back immediately."

"Your boss must have been annoyed!" said Ashwin, sounding subdued.

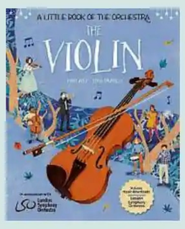
"On the contrary, she was concerned about you both, and urged us to get home soon," said Father.

"Perhaps," said Mother, as she gently dressed Ashwin's wound, "we can return to have dinner after tucking these two into bed."

"By the way," said Father, "I haven't forgotten the quiz. I could tackle it 'tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow'. That's 'Macbeth'," he added, chuckling, "another of my Shakespeare favourites, like 'Julius Caesar'!"

5 BOOKS ON MUSIC

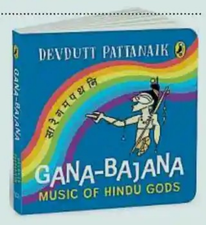
World Music Day is on June 21



The Violin

Part of the A Little Book of the Orchestra series, 'The Violin' by Mary Auld and illustrator Elisa Paganelli was published in 2024 and spans 32 pages. It is ideal for children aged seven to nine. The book follows young violinist Lilu as she prepares for a concert while introducing readers to the history of the violin, how it is made and the role it plays within an orchestra. Combining storytelling, factual information and colourful illustrations, the book aims to encourage children to listen to and understand nuances of music around them.

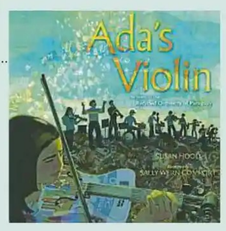
Gana-Bajana: Music of Hindu Gods



Written by Devdutt Pattanaik, 'Gana-Bajana: Music of Hindu Gods' is a 22-page board book published in 2024 for children aged three and above. Through simple text and bright illustrations, it introduces young readers to musical instruments associated with Hindu deities, from Krishna's flute to Shiva's damaru, and Durga's ghanti to Ravan's lute. The book will help children understand the connection between music and traditions and spiritual life.

The Music in George's Head: George Gershwin Creates Rhapsody in Blue

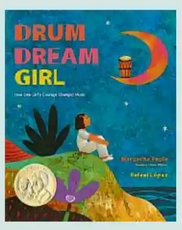
Suzanne Slade's 'The Music in George's Head', illustrated by Stacy Innerst, is a 48-page picture-book. It introduces children to composer George Gershwin and the creation of his iconic work, 'Rhapsody in Blue'. The narrative explores how everyday sounds — from bustling streets and trains to jazz and ragtime rhythms — inspired his music. The book tries to give a peek into the creative process and learn how curiosity, observation and imagination can shape great music. It was published in 2016, and is ideal for readers aged six to 10.



Ada's Violin

Written by Susan Hood and illustrated by Sally Wern Comport, Ada's Violin is a 40-page picture book, first published in 2016, for children aged four to eight. Based on the true story of Ada Ríos from Paraguay, it follows a young girl who dreams of making music despite growing up in a community built around a landfill. When a music teacher begins creating instruments from recycled materials, Ada and other children get the opportunity to join an orchestra. The book shows how creativity, determination and a love for music can overcome even limited resources.

Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music



Published in 2015, this 48-page picture book by Margarita Engle, with illustrations by Rafael López, is suitable for children aged four to seven. Inspired by the life of Chinese-African-Cuban drummer Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, it tells the story of a girl who dreams of playing percussion instruments at a time when drumming was considered unsuitable for girls. Written in lyrical verse, the book celebrates perseverance, courage and the joy of music, while encouraging children to challenge stereotypes and pursue their passions regardless of societal expectations.

'Hope you will continue to support dialogue and peaceful solutions'

Open Sesame readers write to US president Donald Trump, expressing concerns about global issues

Dear President Trump,

I am a Grade 9 student writing with concern and hope for the future of our world.

Today, many young people are worried about the conflicts taking place across different regions, including the recent tensions and violence involving Iran and other countries in the Middle East. Every war brings loss of life, suffering for families, and uncertainty for future generations. While leaders may have different views and national interests, ordinary people everywhere share the same desire — to live in peace and safety.

As one of the world's most influential leaders, your words and decisions can affect millions of lives. I respectfully hope that you will continue to support dialogue, diplomacy, and peaceful solutions whenever possible. Strength is important, but true leadership is also shown through wisdom, patience, and the ability to prevent conflict before it grows.

My generation dreams of a world where resources are invested in education, healthcare, science, and environmental protection rather than war. We want opportunities to learn, innovate, and work together across borders.

History remembers leaders not only for the battles they fought but also for the peace they helped create. I hope all world leaders will choose paths that reduce conflict and build understanding among nations.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,
SRINIVI R K, 13
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Dear Sir,

I am Suhaan S R, a 9th-grade student. My area of interest is the development and implementation of software. I aspire to become an expert in technology so that I can develop intelligent algorithms and help solve the world's many issues using AI. As an enthusiast who observes events globally, I try to analyse them from the perspective of resolving issues and understanding the decisions of global leaders.

Why did your administration decide to pursue such an action in the conflict involving Israel? It is deeply unsettling to see these acts of brutality and violence, which have caused many families immense suffering. What measures will you take to bring about peace, and how do you factor in the consequences when making foreign policy decisions?

Lastly, what is the logic behind stricter immigration laws and closing borders? The separation of children from their parents and the refusal to allow refugees into the country are very concerning to me, and I would love to know why you make such policies. How do you justify the impact of these actions?

Yours sincerely,
SUHAAN SR, 14, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Respected President Donald Trump,

Greetings. I hope this letter finds you in good health.

I have a few questions to ask you. Being the president of such a large country is a huge responsibility. I cannot imagine how you manage to lead such a vast nation. How does it feel to be the president? Do you enjoy the role?

Amid the ongoing conflict with Iran and all your responsibilities as President, how do you find time to spend with your family?

I hope you can help end wars around the world and bring peace to humanity.

Thanking you,
AKSHADHA NATHAN, 12
Bengaluru, Karnataka

This Week:

Spectacular station

Open Sesame Quiz!

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 Victoria Terminus in Bombay (now, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai) was inaugurated on June 20, 1887. Which anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the British throne did the opening commemorate?

Q2 Victoria Terminus has been Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus since 2017. Which of those three words preceding 'Terminus' was missing, when that railway station was first renamed in 1996?

Q3 Whose statue, installed during the construction of Victoria Terminus (in a canopy under the clock, in the main facade), was later removed and subsequently disappeared?

Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: CSM Terminus is a UNESCO World Heritage ___.
Clue B: Use one's teeth to cut or tear into something.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Which 8-Oscar-winning film features a choreographed sequence at the iconic Terminus? Use these clues.
a) 2008
b) Rahman
c) Crore
d) Latika

WINNER'S NAMES: Shreyanka K (15), Kotta; Wilson Mathew (15), Bengaluru; Adhokshaj (11), Raichur.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: A1) USA, A2) Ferdinand Magellan, A3) China, A4) Hills/Gills, A5) Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'If everyday objects could talk...' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on June 25. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic 'Should schools make climate action projects compulsory?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on July 9. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

mellifluous

(adjective)
— sweet, smooth, and pleasant to hear, especially when describing a voice, sound, or music

Usage:
— Aarti's mellifluous voice captivated the audience.
— The students listened to the mellifluous sound of the stream in the forest.

ART CORNER

Love painting?

Want to showcase your flair for colours? Send your paintings on the theme 'The future classroom in 2050' to *Open Sesame* and stand a chance to get featured in an upcoming edition. Mail photographs of your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph of yourself. Entries close on July 2.

TURNING 40

Enduring charm of Malgudi days

When most successful TV shows were emerging from Delhi and Mumbai in the 80s, actor-director Shankar Nag broke the mould by bringing south Indian storytelling into the national spotlight. Stanley Carvalho unpacks why a TV serial rooted in ordinary lives became a cultural landmark

(Clockwise from top left): Padmavati Rao and Shankar Nag on the sets; a sketch by cartoonist R K Laxman; a museum dedicated to the show at Arasalu railway station near Shivamogga; a scene featuring the late Girish Karnad and a young Manjunath Nayaker.

It was September 24, 1986, a Wednesday. At 9 pm, a haunting melody drifted through living rooms across India. Composed by L Vaidyanathan, the now-iconic tune 'Ta na na, Ta nana nana na...' acted like a magnet, drawing families towards their television sets. Accompanied by whimsical sketches by R K Laxman, it announced the arrival of a new Hindi serial on *Doordarshan* — 'Malgudi Days'.

The first episode was titled 'A Hero'. For the next 30 minutes, viewers sat enraptured. The response was immediate. In Bengaluru, it dominated conversations in homes, schools, colleges and workplaces. Most of the cast hailed from the city and it was where the serial had been produced. Here was a television adaptation of a beloved Indian literary classic that felt authentic, intimate and refreshingly different.

Soon, Wednesday nights belonged to Malgudi. Families that didn't have TV sets watched the serial in their neighbours' homes and continued discussing it across compound walls.

A total of 39 episodes were aired over the next two years, making up the first series. Tragically, the man who was instrumental for bringing Malgudi to life, actor-director Shankar Nag, died in a car accident in September 1990. Yet the world he created refused to fade away.

A second series comprising 15 episodes, directed by Kavitha Lankesh, was eventually produced and telecast by *Doordarshan* in 2006.

Mirror to our lives

Today's entertainment ecosystem thrives on speed. Stories are compressed into reels and shorts. Drama is amplified, emotions are exaggerated, and spectacle supersedes substance. Despite belonging to a different era, 'Malgudi Days' continues to hold a cherished place in the hearts of millions of Indians.

The secret lies in its simplicity and realism.

There were no superheroes, no larger-than-life villains; just ordinary people leading ordinary lives. Mothers busy with their daily chores, fathers struggling with responsibility, schoolboys planning pranks, widows seeking companionship, and families negotiating the small joys and disappointments of everyday existence.

Yet, their simple lives were filled with moments of courage, ambition, and kindness.

When Swami, the beloved schoolboy from the series, is mocked as 'The Tail' for idolising his wealthy and accomplished classmate Rajam, his friend Mani stands up to the bullies on his behalf.

Set between the early 1940s and the years following Independence, the series reflected the zeitgeist of the time. Nationalist fervour ran high, with children and adults alike wearing khadi, sporting Gandhi caps, and shouting slogans such as 'Do or die'. In one episode, we see Swami join a protest against colonial rule and hurl stones at his British principal's window.

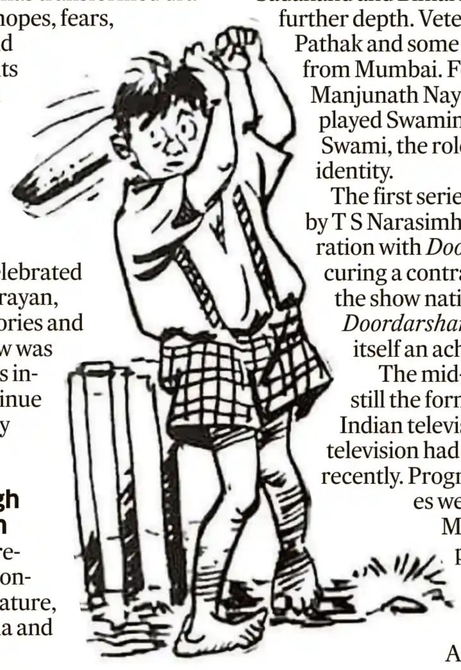
The show also depicted an India in transition. In another episode, a young man named Mali leaves Malgudi to study in America, a rarity at the time, and returns with an American wife, Grace. The conservative villagers are taken aback seeing the foreigner but she eventually wins the heart of her father-in-law.

The stories unfolded gently. They invited viewers to linger, observe, and reflect on profound truths about human nature, relationships, and society. That emotional honesty continues to resonate across generations.

Johnny Ambrose, a Gen Z filmmaker from Bengaluru, watched the show on an OTT platform recently after his father nudged him in its direction. He says, "I wish I had the chance to grow up in a place like Malgudi. I was captivated by the simplicity of a different time, and the nostalgia the show evokes. And the music is an earworm."

Vaidyanathan's composition, based on raga Bhupali (Mohanam in Karnatik music), featured a delicate flute melody accompanied with the rhythms of a folk drum.

While India has transformed dramatically, the hopes, fears, insecurities and aspirations of its people remain remarkably unchanged. The town of Malgudi may have existed only in the imagination of celebrated author R K Narayan, from whose stories and novels the show was adapted, but its inhabitants continue to feel bizarrely familiar.



Breakthrough for the South

The serial represented a rare confluence of literature, theatre, cinema and television.

The cast brought together some of the finest talent from Kannada cinema and Bengaluru's theatre circles. Familiar faces included Girish Karnad, Anant Nag, Vishnuvardhan, Arundathi Nag, Vaishali Kasaravalli, Padmavati Rao, G K Govinda Rao, Ramesh Bhat, Jagadish Malnad, B Jayashree and Suhasini Adarkar. Theatre artistes such as Ashok Mandanna, Judith Bidappa, Sunil Sadanand and Bimal Desai added further depth. Veteran actor Dina Pathak and some others joined from Mumbai. For child actor Manjunath Nayaker, who played Swaminathan aka Swami, the role became his identity.

The first series was produced by T S Narasimhan in collaboration with *Doordarshan*. Securing a contract to telecast the show nationally — on *Doordarshan* — was in itself an achievement.

The mid-1980s were still the formative years of Indian television. Colour television had arrived only recently. Programming choices were limited.

Most successful productions emerged from Mumbai or Delhi.

Against this backdrop, 'Malgudi Days' brought southern storytelling into the national spotlight and demonstrated that deeply local narratives could possess universal appeal.

Approval of R K Narayan

Delhi-based cultural practitioner and media personality Sunit Tandon believes the show's pan-India success stemmed largely from its fidelity to R K Narayan's original vision. He explains that it recreated his stories in cinematic language while remaining faithful to their tone and substance. "The serial explored an innocent age, and did it in a natural and believable way. It was also produced with great craftsmanship," he adds.

It drew from a rich body of R K Narayan's work, including 'Malgudi Days', 'Swami and Friends', 'A Horse and Two Goats', 'The Vendor of Sweets', 'Dodu' and 'Lawley Road'. Eleven episodes came from the 'Malgudi Days' short-story collection.

At the heart of all these stories stood Malgudi itself.

R K Narayan's fictional town was populated by schoolboys, teachers, doctors, shopkeepers, postmen, priests and beggars. The characters were flawed, eccentric and contradictory yet deeply human. Their concerns were modest, but their emotional journeys felt profound.

Veteran actor Padmavati, who served as assistant director on the show, believes this is where the show's enduring appeal lies. "Anything that reminds people of themselves finds a place in their hearts," shares Padmavati, who's better known as Pinty. She also worked across the show's costume and dubbing departments.

R K Narayan often observed that Malgudi could have existed anywhere in the world, because its inhabitants represented universal human experience.

One of the most significant endorsements of the show came from R K Narayan himself.

Years earlier, he had been disappointed by the film adaptation of his 1958 novel 'The Guide'. But when he watched 'Old Man at the Temple', one of the episodes of 'Malgudi Days', he reportedly remarked that the story's depth became apparent after he watched it on screen.

Shankar Nag's vision

To bring R K Narayan's Malgudi to life, the production team transformed Agumbe, a picturesque town near Shivamogga. A few episodes were also filmed in Bengaluru and Devarayanadurga near Tumakuru.

Nestled amid dense forests and rolling hills, Agumbe felt almost timeless. Old tiled houses lined narrow roads. Mist hung over the landscape. Life moved at an unhurried pace. It was precisely the atmosphere Shankar Nag sought.

Known today as both the 'Cobra Capital of India' and the 'Cherrapunji of the South', Agumbe eventually became central to the visual identity of 'Malgudi Days'.

Art director John Devaraj, then already an established name in the industry, recalls the production as a rewarding adventure. Building Malgudi demanded imagination, resourcefulness, and painstaking attention to detail. Shops, schools, bus stops, and even the statue of Sir Lawley had to be specially designed and constructed. For one underwater sequence, John even devised a custom filming apparatus on location.

"It helped me explore my abilities as an artist, an architect, and a calligraphist," he says.

The challenges, however, extended far beyond production design. Agumbe had no hotels to accommodate the cast and crew, which numbered around 120. Everyone stayed in local homes. Bathing water was heated over a woodfire. Snakes, leeches, and swarming bees became part of daily life.

Sunil, who played Mali in 'The Vendor of Sweets' and also appeared in 'Iswaran', recalls Agumbe in the 1980s as rustic yet beautiful. "We lived with local families, ate the food they made, and fully adapted to local life," says the 65-year-old.

That spirit of enthusiasm permeated the entire production, flowing from Shankar Nag, the captain of the ship. John remembers him as someone who was "democratic and encouraged everyone to contribute in every possible way".

Ramesh, who worked as production coordinator, remembers Shankar Nag's boundless creativity. "If an idea struck him at night, he would summon us immediately. By morning, the required props or costumes had to be ready."

There were creative challenges too. Pinty says many of R K Narayan's stories featured few female characters. "Malgudi could not be a world without femininity. We had to flesh out female characters to make it feel complete," she says. For instance, a scene was written to show an astrologer's wife, who in the original story is already dead.

Letter to Swami

Manjunath was nine when he essayed the role of Swami, who was equal parts innocent and mischievous. He recalls the cast and crew as "one big family", and the children on set having "enormous fun". "Yet we were treated professionally and expected to perform seriously," he shares.

The process was not without its hurdles. "I didn't know Hindi and wasn't fluent in English either. Since we were shooting on 35 mm film, retakes were expensive. I had to work hard on my dialogues." Girish Karnad, Shankar Nag, and others helped him deliver both his lines and emotions effectively.

Hindi was a recurring challenge for much of the cast too. They were more comfortable in Kannada and English. "We all spoke a distinctly south Indian Hindi. We had to work hard on softening our accents," shares Pinty, breaking into laughter.

It was Judith Bidappa's debut television stint, and she got lucky. "I grew up in Delhi, so I spoke good Hindi," she says with a smile. As a foreigner who comes to Malgudi after marrying Mali, her character, Grace, spoke Americanised Hindi.

Yet, Pinty insists, nobody thought of anything as difficult. "We were in love with what we were doing. Adapting R K Narayan's literature felt like a privilege and an adventure," she says. And the effort paid off. "Each set of 13 episodes was so well produced that *Doordarshan* even increased the budget on Shankar's request," Jagdish, actor and production in-charge, shares with pride.

Manjunath was already a seasoned child actor, having appeared in 23 films, including the Hindi film 'Utsav'. Yet it was Swami that made him a household name. Once, an envelope addressed simply to "Swami, Malgudi Days" somehow reached a post office in Bengaluru, whose staff tracked down Shankar Nag and delivered it to him. And he ensured it found its way to Manjunath. He also reportedly told him, "This letter means more than anything else. It shows you've reached and touched the lives of so many people in India."

But for the young actor, no award could surpass the compliment he received at a celebration marking the show's success. R K Narayan approached him and said, "You did a good job. You were exactly the Swami in my stories."

Emotional quotient

'Malgudi Days' came at a time when India's television audience was expanding drastically — from around 30 million in 1983 to nearly 80 million by 1987-88. Repeated telecasts ensured that younger audiences continued discovering it during the satellite television era. In recent years, it found a new set of fans after it was made available on streaming platforms. It holds an IMDb rating of 9.4 out of 10, making it one of the highest-rated Indian television productions ever made.

Its legacy extends far beyond television. At Arasalu railway station near Shivamogga, where many memorable scenes were filmed, a museum dedicated to 'Malgudi Days' was opened in 2020. Created by John, it features photographs, artworks, toy trains, and recreated sets from the serial. A railway coach has even been converted into a tea shop named 'Malgudi Chai'. Visitors come not just to see exhibits, but to revisit a world that shaped their childhoods.

And in Agumbe, not much has changed since the crew first set foot. Jagadish shares, "The streets look the same. Doddamane, the old rambling house where many scenes were shot, is today a homestay, while Swami's house next to the temple still exists."

Yet, the greatest tribute to 'Malgudi Days' lies elsewhere. It lies in the memories of viewers who still hum its signature tune: "Ta na na, Ta nana nana na...". In families who gathered around their television sets every Wednesday night. In countless Indians who saw themselves in Swami and the other everyday people.

The very mention of 'Malgudi Days' transports one back to a quieter India, a gentler world.

Like this story? Email: dhonsat@deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

From konnakol to beatboxing

Shivaraj Natraj weaves a global sound, grounding beatboxing in konnakol's intricate syllables, writes Shraddha A K

Shivaraj Natraj continually stretches the horizons of Karnatik music. His music is a testament to how classical foundations can evolve into contemporary, global expressions. At the core of his artistry lies years of rigorous training in mridangam, first under his father Natraj Pushpavanam, and later, with gurus P K Ram Mohan and Vid A V Anand. This early grounding gave him an instinctive grasp of rhythm, structure, and the mathematical precision that defines Karnatik music.

"Whether I am performing, composing, or experimenting, the Karnatik framework remains intact: not as a constraint but as a launchpad," he says, adding that rather than treating the fusion as a simple overlay of styles, he aims for an equal blend between traditions.

This philosophy finds its clearest expression in his konnakol beatboxing. What began as a self-taught exploration during his school years in Muscat soon evolved into a distinct form. While beatboxing, rooted in hip-hop, thrives on rhythm, it rarely engages with the complex systems found in Karnatik music. By introducing konnakol — the vocal language of Karnatik percussion — Shivaraj bridges that gap, merging intricate rhythmic syllables with contemporary beats.

The idea germinated during his stay at Ramakrishna Vidyarthi Mandiram in Bengaluru, where restrictions on technology compelled him to reflect. Encouraged to present beatboxing in a more traditional format, he turned to his Karnatik training, culminating in what he now calls 'konnakol beatboxing'. "My earlier videos of this form gained traction online, drawing attention within Bengaluru's classical and indie music circles," he shares.

Since then, his work has extended across borders and genres. He has performed internationally, including at the World Vocal Conference called La Voce Artistica in Italy, and was featured on Italian television (RAI5) alongside Karnatik vocalist Varijashree Venugopal.

In the US, he has collaborated with Grammy-winning composer Ricky Kej for 'The Gandhi Project', contributing vocal layers and production. His work has also been showcased at MIT during an event attended by actor Robert Downey Jr, where his composition accompanied a Bharatanatyam performance.

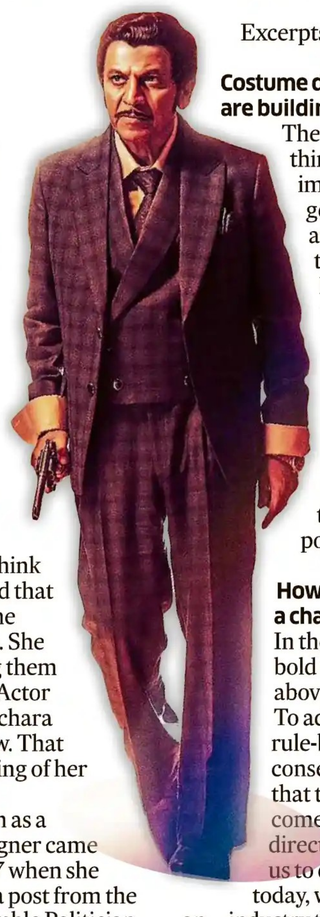
Closer home, Shivaraj has shared a stage with percussionists such as B C Manjunath. He is also a part of the math-metal fusion band Project Mishram. His upcoming releases continue this trajectory, including a jazz-fusion interpretation of the Karnatik composition 'Vandanamu' in raga Sahana, featuring international musicians and a full horn section.

Shivaraj Natraj has done a jazz-fusion interpretation of the Karnatik composition 'Vandanamu'.

Between the seams: DRESSING the story

From ageing fabric with tea and sandpaper to using colour as subtext, costume designers use a range of subtle techniques to shape characters. Inchara Suresh tells Pranati A S about the craft behind movie wardrobes

Inchara Suresh sifting through costumes. (Below) She brought back the French foldable cuff from the 'Bond' series for Shivarajkumar in '666 Operation Dream Theatre'.



Ten years ago, Inchara Suresh was not very keen about costume designing and styling. Today, she is highly regarded for her work as a celebrity wardrobe stylist and a film costume designer.

When Inchara graduated from Vogue Institute of Fashion Technology in 2016, her goal was to start a garment company and employ 30 women. She was committed to empowering women from her teenage years and calls herself a proud feminist.

While taking some time off to think about her next moves, she realised that there was an untapped space in the Kannada film industry for stylists. She reached out to a few actors telling them that she would like to style them. Actor Priyamani responded first and Inchara styled her for a reality show. That marked the beginning of her styling journey.

CUT TO CREW

Her first film as a costume designer came about in 2017 when she chanced on a post from the team of 'Humble Politician Nograj' seeking costume designers.

Styling in the Kannada film industry has largely meant stitching costumes and putting them on actors, but for Inchara it is much more than that. Her aim is to showcase actors from the South to a wider audience. She hopes to bring designers from Mumbai, Delhi, Dubai and the US to collaborate with south Indian artistes.

As a curious child, Inchara would stand on Double Road after school, observing passersby and their style. Designing characters now feels like reliving those memories.

Vintage and retro are her forte. When she got an opportunity to work for 'Aachar & Co', her first period film, she experimented with Bangalore's fashion from the '60s. Inchara brought her grandmother and mother's saris from the era and got all the girls in the film to wear half saris, puff sleeved blouses, and hair ribbons. She is now working on her second period drama, the retro spy thriller '666 Operation Dream Theatre' starring Shivarajkumar and Daali Dhananjaya'.

"It took me a few years to realise, this is absolutely my passion. I absolutely love cinema and love being on the set," an excited Inchara says.

Excerpts:

Costume designing is not just styling. You are building a world altogether.

The script is the most important thing for me. As I read it, I'm already imagining what the characters are going to wear and how colour can add subtext. This is what I bring to the table as a costume designer. In 'Vikram Vedha', for example, when Madhavan and Vijay Sethupathi first face each other, Madhavan wears white and Sethupathi black. In a strikingly similar scene towards the end, their shirt colours have shifted — Madhavan to dark grey and Sethupathi to cream — reflecting the film's progression. That was a powerful piece of subtext.

In 'Aachar & Co', she experimented with '60s Bangalore fashion.

How do you reflect the personality of a character through costumes?

In the song 'Kaanta Laga' (2002), a bold thong-flash detail reveals straps above the low-slung denim waistband. To add that kind of detail, and create a rule-breaking persona that challenged conservative television standards of that time is important. So it really comes down to us, and the director who's going to allow us to do that. Unfortunately, today, we're not dealing with an industry that looks at style as an element for the character. We stereotype.

FEEDBACK
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What are the first things you consider?

Comfort! I strongly believe that if the actor feels comfortable, then the confidence just follows. While designing, I try to get answers to questions like, 'what does the character like', 'where are they from', 'do they come from a hilly region or from a coastal area', or 'are they from Bengaluru?' This helps me design a character's outfits, even if it's just jeans and a t-shirt.

'Aachar & Co' has a very Wes Anderson look. What were the challenges?

The challenge was the colours because we had to assign each character a colour to create a subtext. Initially, if you see Sindhu's character, she appears in light, faded colours. Towards the end, she's in a bright purple. That took a lot of thought. It was challenging to decide colours and not repeat them; there are only a few colours you can use considering the limited colour-palette of a Wes Anderson theme.

How do audiences respond to costumes?

I used to be mesmerised with collars and pocket details, bell-bottoms and the details on them in Rajkumar's films. I remember my uncle would follow that trend. Actor Nayantara in 'Naanum Rowdy Dhaan' (2015) revived the skirt and tank top trend. Her sari with the sleek bun and big earrings is still a go-to for a lot of people. With 'Jogi', the cargos and off-shoulder tops became a thing. 'Action Replayy' brought back tight fitted kurtas with the patiala pants.

What is it like to be the only woman HOD on set?

I have a full team of women — three assistants and one of them is affected by cerebral palsy. We work on a lot of ad films together. But a film set is a little challenging — there are a lot of senior men, but I think I have found my voice in the last decade. I have worked with some of the most amazing directors, and also some of the most difficult ones. I have had fights with makeup artists who find it difficult to take orders from a woman. 'Aachar & Co' was the only film where we had a lot of women on the set.

How do you age costumes?

We don't just buy whites from the shop and use them on screen. We tone them down with diluted tea or coffee because colours behave differently on camera. If someone is playing a manual worker, the clothes need to show years of wear and tear. Ageing a towel or a banian is a process — we use stones and sandpaper to distress the fabric, along with double and stone washes. In Hollywood, there are specialists whose sole job is ageing costumes.

In 'Aachar & Co', Sindhu's character isn't interested in dressing well. My grandmother's old cotton saris were perfect; cottons get better with time and fade beautifully.

To read the full interview, visit deccanherald.com/dh-specials

Cut to Crew is a new monthly column that spotlights the unseen technicians whose craft and creativity shape the magic of cinema.

Crime and the MAKING of A CITY

'Aa Dinagalu' director K M Chaitanya talks to Pranati A S about his upcoming crime drama 'Balaramana Dinagalu', also set in the '80s

Filmmaker K M Chaitanya who made the cult classic 'Aa Dinagalu' (2007) about Bengaluru's famous rowdy sheeters of the '80s is back with another underworld film: 'Balaramana Dinagalu'. It is set for release on June 26. The period crime drama stars Vinod Prabhakar in the lead role and follows a young boy who rises to become the most feared gangster.

Agni Sreedhar introduced Chaitanya to the underworld while making 'Aa Dinagalu', which is based on Sreedhar's book 'Dadagiriya Dinagalu'. Through Sreedhar Chaitanya met gangsters in their addas and gained insights into the nature of their businesses and the political connections they had. "All that information helped me while making 'Balaramana Dinagalu'," says Chaitanya.

Excerpts from an interview:

What is it about Bengaluru's underworld that you find so fascinating?

One can get a sense of a city's growth through the lens of its crime. Bengaluru was a smaller city, surrounded by *palyas* and *sandras* with their own small-time chiefs. As the city began to grow and absorb these towns, these chieftains had to negotiate with the city's dons to stay relevant.

The underworld, in some ways, recreates the world of kings and its politics — how politicians and businessmen control these gangsters, and how certain businesses vanish because of one economic decision. To situate the story of a village boy who becomes part of the underworld and gets sucked into its world of crime, in this landscape, was quite interesting.

Is this something you wrote a long time ago?

While reading about the underworld, a story started taking shape in my head but I did not know whether I would turn it into a web series or a feature. In 2023, 26-year-old Shreyas came to me. He said he was influenced by 'Aa Dinagalu'. He must have been six when the film was released. He said he wanted to make a film like 'Aa Dinagalu' with Vinod Prabhakar. His mother comes from the same village as the rowdy sheeter Balarama, who was a very big name in the underworld. He asked if we could make a film about him. I didn't want to make a biopic of Balarama but I started stitching all the material that I had around Balarama's story to create a fictional narrative.

K M Chaitanya

But you have denied that it is based on rowdy sheeter Balarama...

The film is not based on the rowdy sheeter Balarama. The reason I say it is a work of fiction is because 'Aa Dinagalu' was a 100% authentic story — even the way Jayaraj or Kotwal spoke. But I didn't see the need for that kind of authenticity in 'Balaramana Dinagalu'. It is definitely inspired by real incidents but I wanted to take cinematic liberties.

You have recreated the Bangalore of the '80s again. Where did you shoot it?

The 'old Bangalore' doesn't exist anymore. It didn't exist even when I shot 'Aa Dinagalu'. Luckily, I shot it at the Central Armed Reserve, a government quarters built in the '70s. Most government spaces don't get funds, so they don't change in appearance. We also used outdated lenses because we had a low budget. But it worked for us because the images looked a little grainy and helped achieve a retro look.

But in 'Balaramana Dinagalu', the story is more expansive. We shot it in Mysuru, which resembles 'old Bangalore'. We also had to recreate some locations. Art director Vishwas Kashyap and cinematographer H C Venugopal were both crucial in bringing that period back to life.

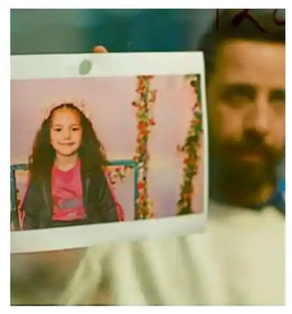
Many big gangster films today are shot on a grand scale. Why did you choose to keep 'Balramana Dinagalu' simple?

If you choose the realistic filmmaking pattern, you'll have to try and keep it as authentic as possible. Though the story is fictional, the world I'm creating is very much real. And I don't think that the world of gangsters should look grand. At the end of it, any crime story has only one message, that crime doesn't pay. I don't want somebody watching the film and saying, 'why don't I be a gangster? It's such a beautiful life'.

MOVIE REVIEWS

A painful and agonising retelling

PRANATI A S



Red Crescent volunteers try rescuing a girl stuck in a car fired by Israeli Defence Forces.

★★★★½

The Voice of Hind Rajab

Palestinian Arabic (Theatres)

Director: Kaouther Ben Hania

Cast: Saja Kilani, Motaz Malhees, Amer Hlehel, Clara Khoury

'Come take me. Will you come and take me? I'm so scared, please come', were the words five-year-old Hind Rajab continuously repeated before she was brutally murdered by Israeli soldiers in an act of genocidal violence. 'The Voice of Hind Rajab' is an agonising retelling of how the little girl could not be rescued.

Hind Rajab is surrounded by her dead family members in a car under fire in Gaza. Her older cousin, who reached out to the Red Crescent for help, is also killed. Around her, everything has fallen apart after Israeli soldiers bombed the area. She repeatedly asks rescuers if they will come before darkness falls because she is scared of the dark.

Directed by Tunisian filmmaker, Kaouther Ben Hania, the docudrama incorporates the 70-minute audio recording released by the Red Crescent Society. It is a haunting look at violence in Palestine through the lens of a child. Set in an emergency call centre, actors speak and respond to Rajab's desperate plea for help. It never comes. The film also captures the distressing, heated and helpless atmosphere in the call centre where volunteers are furious and get into an argument about the best way to tackle the situation. That Rajab's location is nowhere near where they are stationed is further cause for frustration. And the audiences reflect that emotion.

The film arrives in India at a time when questions of accountability remain extremely urgent. As the film recalls the killing of Rajab, the Hind Rajab Foundation continues to pursue legal action against individuals accused of war crimes, some of whom are reportedly holidaying in Indian mountains. The haunting gap between evidence and accountability extends beyond the film's final frame.

Toys and tech go head to head

SWEEKRUTHI K

Buzz Lightyear and Woody.

★★½☆☆

Toy Story 5

English (Theatres)

Director: Andrew Stanton

Cast: Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack

After failing to find a single person who still remembered the plot of 'Toy Story 4', I went into its fifth instalment with very little optimism. The first half largely lives up to this analysis, with its preachy tone and simplistic plot. The second half does pick up, with a few clever lines, some silly bits and an overall pleasant story arc.

'Toy Story 5' features all the familiar and well-loved stars of the franchise. It primarily revolves around Jessie, who now belongs to Bonnie, the little girl introduced to us in 'Toy Story 4'. Jessie strives to help her make friends in an age where devices threaten human connection. Buzz (Tim Allen) and Woody (Tom Hanks) perform their classic love-hate friendship in a way that feels nostalgic and endearing. Later, we are introduced to Blaze, who is kind, empathetic and fun. At this point, all plot lines really pick up, and have you rooting for the toys.

As always, the background score feels classic and purposeful. Where the movie truly wins is in the animation of the details — the toy's outfits and the micro expressions stick with you. However, the incredible animation is let down by flat storytelling. The film takes a disappointingly reductive approach to devices and how they have affected play among young children. Confusingly, it seems to villainise and empathise with the devices.

The film is a light weekend family watch, but is mostly unimpressive. The watch might hold greater appeal for younger kids than pre-teens. Parents must be advised that in typical franchise fashion, there is quite a bit of tongue-in-cheek humour that may or may not escape your kid's radar.

Gold with a few scratches

AMOGH RAVINDRA

Samantha Ruth Prabhu plays a fearless gun-weilding heroine.

★★½☆☆

Maa Inti Bangaaram

Telugu (Theatres)

Director: B V Nandini Reddy

Cast: Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Gulshan Devaiah, Diganth

Frequent collaborators B V Nandini Reddy and Samantha Ruth Prabhu reunite once again, this time swapping romance for a family entertainer loaded with politics, old grudges, and enough drama to fuel an entire wedding season.

Swarna (Samantha), arrives in Ballavaram during a family wedding and local elections with two weeks to win over her husband Anirudh's sprawling family. Easier said than done. This is a household where sisters and sisters-in-law are constantly trying to outdo one another. As celebrations unfold, ghosts from the past begin resurfacing, threatening to turn family tensions into something far messier.

The joint-family chaos does much of the heavy lifting here, with rivalries, emotional baggage, and constant friction keeping things entertaining. Samantha is decent in a familiar role, while Gulshan Devaiah adds intrigue but feels underused. Diganth barely leaves an impression. Raj's writing and Nandini Reddy's direction keep things moving, balancing family drama, comedy, action, and sentiment with ease. The laughs land, the action is slick, and the punchy score gives the film an extra kick.

The first half moves along smoothly, setting up relationships and conflicts with enough energy to keep you invested. The second half, however, slips into predictable territory. Twists arrive exactly when you expect them, and some emotional beats feel a little too convenient. Still, the film understands its audience and delivers enough whistles, laughs, and sentiment to stay afloat.

'Maa Inti Bangaaram' may not reinvent the family entertainer, but it knows how to work the formula. It is warm, occasionally messy, and packed with enough drama to keep the family WhatsApp group busy for weeks.

Predictable love triangle that remains eye-candy

DIVYA P

Kriti Sanon stands out in 'Cocktail 2'.

★★½☆☆

Cocktail 2

Hindi (Theatres)

Director: Homi Adajania

Actors: Kriti Sanon, Rashmika Mandanna, Shahid Kapoor

Coming 14 years after 'Cocktail', at a time when relationship dynamics have undergone a sea change with numerous definitions and situations, the Homi Adajania directorial decides to go old school.

Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna play Kunal and Diya, who have been together for years. Diya's friend Ally (Kriti Sanon) makes a sizzling entry during their vacation in Sicily and we have the latest 'Cocktail' template.

But when Diya asks Ally to hit on her long-time boyfriend to check if he is loyal enough as a fun challenge, we know that Luv Ranjan is on board as the co-writer of the 2026 film along with Tarun Jain. Romantic moments, an attempt at comedy and a bit of messaging make up the mix but it just does not come together. The love triangle plot is predictable with not-so-intriguing lead characters.

Kriti gets slightly better scope to perform, mostly because her character is moulded along the lines of Deepika Padukone's wild Veronica from the original penned by Imtiaz Ali. Shahid's Kunal, who is first seen as a smart and goofy youth, turns into a too-good-a-guy that no woman can turn down.

'Cocktail' featured some banger music by Pritam and 'Tum hi ho bandhu' is still the most peppy track in this one as well. Santhana Krishnan Ravichandran gives us sweeping shots of the exotic coastlines, enriching the film visually.

Kriti Sanon also looks stunning, but there is hardly any chemistry between the leads and the question that kept bothering me was why the film was given an Adults Only rating!

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **Bharath Kumar J** & **Nethravathi M E,** R/at Flat No.G002, Murari abhaya Aprt., Abbaiah Reddy Layout Main Road, Kaggadasapur Main Road, CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru - 560093, have changed my minor son's name from **BHARGAV B** to **BHARGAV VIHAAN B,** vide affidavit dt: 29.05.2026 before notary K.S. Giridhar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RYAN CLAUD MAHON,** residing Old No. 30, New No. 33, 6th Cross, Hutchins Road, Near Apd Hutchins Road, Thomas Town, Bengaluru-560084, have changed my name to **RYAN CLAUDE MAHON** vide affidavit dated 18-06-2026 before notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **RYAN CLAUDE MAHON** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GILLIAN LEOLA VAZ, GILLIAN LEOLA VAZ SANJAY,** resident at No. 43/5, Davis Road, Richards Town, Bengaluru- 560084, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as **GILLIAN LEOLA VAZ** vide affidavit dated 18-06-2026 before notary Prasad Shetty K.B., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARUNESH SHRIVASTAVA** and **SHRIVSTAVA ARUNESH,** R/at Flat No. 101, Vars Casa Cerise, 10th Cross, Pai Layout, Doorvaninagar, Bengaluru-560016, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as **ARUNESH SHRIVASTAVA** vide affidavit dt:17-06-2026 before notary J.Anand Kumar, Bengaluru.

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IN BRIEF

Stephen stars in Shlok HC win

▸ Stephen Swami netted four goals to propel Shlok Hockey Club to a comfortable 6-0 win over Karnataka Forest Department at the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship on Friday, reports DHNS.

Results: Shlok HC: 6 (Stephen Swami 5th, 7th, 12th, 23rd, Sandeep 34th, Kartik Patare 55th) bt Karnataka Forest Department: 0; Raichur District HA: 4 (Manasrij Baro 13th, 45th, Karan Karma 52nd, Mayak Kumar 57th) bt Falcon HC: 1 (Govinda 38th).

Iniyan wears GCF crown

▸ Grandmaster Iniyan Pa lived up to his top billing, dominating proceedings from start to finish to emerge champion in the masters category of Global Chess Festival on Friday, reports PTI from Mumbai.

Already in sight of the title after the penultimate round, the 24-year-old national champion settled for a quick draw against Ajay Santhosh Parvathareddy to claim the title in his debut appearance to pocket the winner's purse of Rs 8 lakh.

Nithin Babu clinched the Challenger Category and Madhvendra Pratap Sharma triumphed in the Junior Master Category.

Pardiwala in IOA's med panel

▸ Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and renowned sports surgeon Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala will be heading the body's anti-doping medical panel that will coordinate with national federations to educate athletes on the perils of banned substances, reports PTI from New Delhi.

DC to hire Yuvi as batting coach

▸ Former white-ball stalwart Yuvraj Singh is all set to join Delhi Capitals as its batting coach for the 2027 season, IPL sources tracking the development said on Friday, reports PTI.

Miracle Star for feature

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

James Mckeown-trained Miracle Star, to be ridden by Suraj Narredu, is the favourite to win the Chief Justice's Cup, the feature event of the races on Saturday. The first race starts at 2 pm.

1. The Pronto Pronto Plate - 1600M: Black Irish 1, Incredible Luck 2, Asterion 3.
2. The Borsalino Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Prince Of Wales 1, Knotty Cruise 2, Exceed 3.
3. The Paddiwick Plate - 1600M: Art Of Romance 1, Stella Maris 2, Lex Luthor 3.
4. The D Kumar Siddanna Memorial Cup - 1400M: Shutterfly 1, Edison 2, Royal Legacy 3.
5. The Chief Justice's Cup (Grade III) - 1800M: Miracle Star 1, Mayne Magic 2, Positano 3.
6. The Prabalo Plate - 1400M: Bright Thunder 1, Windcleaver 2, Double Your Money 3.
7. The Borsalino Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Eagle Eye 1, Sicyon 2, Perfect Attitude 3.

Day's Best: Bright Thunder. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. **Mini Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7. **I treble:** 2, 3, 4. **II treble:** 5, 6, 7.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

3rd ODI: India vs Afghanistan **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Women's T20 WC: England vs Scotland **(11 pm)**, Australia vs Netherlands **(3 pm)**, Pakistan vs Bangladesh **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

2nd Test: New Zealand vs England **(Day 4, 3:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, SonyLIV.**

Maharaja Trophy: Bengaluru Masters vs Gulbarga Mystics **(2:30 pm)**, Shivamogga Yodhas vs Mysore Warriors **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

FOOTBALL

World Cup: Turkiye vs Paraguay **(8:30 am)**, Netherlands vs Sweden **(10:30 pm)**, Germany vs Ivory Coast **(1:30 am, Sunday)**, Ecuador vs Curacao **(5:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Unite8 Sports, Zee5.**

BADMINTON

Macau Open: Semifinals **(9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

GOLF

US Open: Day 3 **(9:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

The Queen's: Semifinal **(2:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET THIRD ODI

More than just a dead rubber

Rohit, Jaiswal will eye big knocks in the final game against Afghanistan

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
CHENNAI, DHNS

India's thumping 170-run victory in Lucknow decided the series and consigned the third and final game here at the M A Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday to a dead rubber. But unlike most dead rubbers, there are still a few storylines in this one.

Will Ishan Kishan ride his momentum? Can Yashasvi Jaiswal make a case for himself? Can the newcomers continue to impress?

Afghanistan, however, could be forgiven for feeling disheartened after losing all games on this trip. Their hunger for fight was seen in patches, but India were in no mood to flip an expected script, and their demolition of the wilting visitors was proof of it.

Yashasvi Jaiswal has another opportunity to stay in India's ODI plans when the hosts take on Afghanistan in the third ODI at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday. PTI

LIVE 1:30 PM, STAR SPORTS NETWORK

While the series may have been won, it's not quite mission accomplished for India. With over 30 games still to be played before the 2027 ODI World Cup, the management has indicated to assess players in different roles.

In light of the team's rotation policy, all members of the squad (except Harshit Rana -- who joined the team for the third ODI) have been given game time. While experimentation has been the buzzword, all batters will not mind another hit in the middle.

Kishan, who has had an inspiring return to national colours, would not want to let his guard down, knowing he has presented himself as a prospect even when Kohli returns. However, vice-captain Shreyas Iyer, in all likelihood, will continue to occupy the No. 4 spot.

On the other hand, KL Rahul, having played only 20 balls in the series, would hope to spend some time in the middle. While he batted at five in the first game, he was pushed to No. 6 in the second.

Another interesting case is that of Jaiswal. The 24-year-old last had made an ODI appearance in December before he was called up for the injured Kohli. While he failed to grab the opportunity in Lucknow, Jaiswal needs a big score to stay in contention as a back-up, with the ODI squad for the England tour expected soon.

Rohit Sharma, meanwhile, has not looked completely out of touch as the recent numbers suggest, but the 39-year-old would be eager to spend some time at the crease to give himself a chance for a big knock and regain rhythm.

On the bowling front, Rana has linked up with the Indian squad after completing his rehabilitation at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence following a knee injury. However, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate hinted they would not rush him into the scheme of things.

Nitish Kumar Reddy, who missed the second game with a sore thigh, is likely to start.

Newbies Gurnoor Brar, Prince Yadav and Harsh Dubey have all impressed, but Kuldeep Yadav has been under the scanner with a dip in form, and an underwhelming IPL has not helped his cause. The 31-year-old was brought in for the second game but failed to pick a wicket.

For the visitors, their biggest disappointment would be the spinners though, it must be mentioned that the surfaces have not aided slow bowling in the two games. They will need to conjure something special if they are to return home with a win.

Opener Jaiswal to get another look-in to stake claim

All-rounder Nitish set to return for final ODI

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
CHENNAI, DHNS

Nitish Kumar Reddy

Yashasvi Jaiswal may be embarking on what promises to be a long stint in Indian whites. The 24-year-old has already hit overseas Test hundreds in Australia, England and the West Indies. He also became the only Indian after Vinod Kambli and Virat Kohli to score double hundreds in consecutive Tests.

A brilliant white-ball stroke-maker, also built for the red-ball grind, has failed to cement his place in the Indian limited overs side.

However, he was brought back into the ODI setup for the first time since December 2025 as a replacement, but squandered the opportunity in Lucknow. While time seems to be running out, another chance, probably the last one, in Chennai awaits.

"We do want to look at guys like Jaiswal. Obviously, he did not get runs in the last game, so he will probably get another go," India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said on the eve of the game.

"He is someone who is waiting in the wings because of the depth of quality we have in that position. One of the briefs going into the series was to make sure that the squad was rotated and played," he added.

"Jaiswal is one of those guys, when he does get the right chances like this, is going to have to score runs and take those opportunities. That is just the nature of Indian cricket.

"There is no hiding from it. There is so much depth. Every time these guys get a chance, whether it is on rotation, they have to take them."

While the team management had hinted KL Rahul could get an eye in at No. 3, Doeschate confirmed it was not a consideration for Saturday.

"The versatility of the batting line-up is fantastic. I don't think it (Rahul at 3) is a consideration."

Nitish Kumar Reddy missed the second one-dayer with a sore thigh, but Doeschate said that the all-rounder is fit to feature at the M A Chidambaram Stadium.

"Nitish could have played the last game as well. He was a little sore. But he will be good to go for tomorrow's game," said Doeschate.

Late Indian lapses hand Germany thrilling win

ROTTERDAM, PTI

India inexplicably conceded two late goals to lose to reigning world champions Germany 1-2 in their FIH Pro League match here on Thursday.

The two sides were goalless at the half time before Jugraj Singh struck from a penalty corner in the 38th minute to give India the lead.

It looked like India would notch a rare back-to-back win against the Germans who, however, equalised four minutes from the final hooter through a penalty corner conversion by Justus Weigand (56th).

The world champions then snatched a win from the jaws of defeat with Jakob Brilla (60th) scoring from yet another penalty corner with just a few seconds left in the match.

The match, though, was dull and drab for most part. India earned three penalty corners as against five by the Germans.

India had stunned Germany 3-1 on Wednesday in a memorable win that coincided with Manpreet Singh becoming the country's most-capped player.

The midfield stalwart made his 413th appearance, surpassing former captain and current Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey's tally of 412 matches.

Jugraj Singh converted a penalty corner in the 38th minute to score India's lone goal against Germany on Thursday. HI MEDIA

India had lost to Olympic champions the Netherlands 2-3 on June 14.

They next face the Netherlands again on June 21.

Women eye Chile scalp

Dominant so far in the tournament, a confident India will look to continue in the same vein and upstage a lower-ranked Chile in the semifinals of the FIH Nations Cup here on Saturday in their pursuit of reclaiming their place in the elite FIH Pro League.

India have literally muscled their way to the semifinals from Pool A with three wins from as many games, topping the group with nine points ahead of the USA.

Hosts New Zealand, on the other hand, topped Pool B with an all-win record and will take on the USA in the other semi-final.

India are determined to win the FIH Nations Cup to earn their place back in next season's elite FIH Pro League, from which they were relegated last year.

The Indian women's team was relegated from the elite FIH Pro League to the second-tier FIH Hockey Nations Cup following its last-place finish in the 2024-25 season, after managing only 10 points from 16 matches.

The winner of the eight-nation FIH Nations Cup will progress to next year's FIH Pro League.

Going by rankings and current form, India will definitely start as favourites against Chile.

In red-hot form, India are currently ranked ninth in the world, while Chile are placed 13th, but rankings hardly matter in modern-day hockey.

Stokes likely to return for Eng-NZ finale

LONDON, AFP: England captain Ben Stokes could return to Test duty as soon as next week's series finale against New Zealand, several British media outlets reported Thursday.

Stokes and England teammate Gus Atkinson were both stood down from the ongoing second Test at the Oval after breaking a team curfew following the hosts' win in the series opener at Lord's.

That decision led to a flurry of speculation over his international future amid concerns the 35-year-old all-rounder might be stripped of the England captaincy, stand down by himself or even walk away from representing his country permanently.

But both the BBC and Britain's Press Association news agency reported Thursday that Stokes could rejoin the England squad for the third and final Test against New Zealand at Nottingham's Trent Bridge as inquiries by both the England and Wales Cricket Board and the independent Cricket Regulator head towards a conclusion.

Stokes has been England captain for the past four years.

Ton-up Nicholls turns the screw on England

LONDON, AFP: Henry Nicholls's superb unbeaten century saw New Zealand into an utterly dominant position after Matt Henry's five-for against England in the second Test at the Oval on Friday.

New Zealand were 252-3 in their second innings at stumps on the third day in south London -- a huge overall lead of 352 runs -- with Nicholls 119 not out.

Earlier, fast-medium bowler Henry returned fine innings figures of 5-80 in 24 overs. An England team showing five changes from Lord's and missing captain Ben Stokes, omitted after breaking a team curfew, would have been in an even worse position but for tailender Matt Fisher's 50 not out -- his maiden Test half-century.

The Black Caps, looking to level this three-match series after a 115-run defeat in the first Test at Lord's, had been faltering at 28-2 on Friday when Nicholls was joined in the middle by Rachin Ravindra.

But the two left-handers restored New Zealand's grip on the game with an excellent third-wicket partnership of 161 in 33 overs that only ended when Ravindra was lbw for 76 to Jacob Bethell deep into the final session.

Matt Henry took 5/80. AP/PTI

New Zealand led by exactly 100 runs on first innings after Matt Henry took five wickets as England were dismissed for 291 earlier on Friday.

England then had a glimmer of hope when New Zealand captain Tom Latham and fellow opener Devon Conway both fell cheaply.

Brief scores: New Zealand: 391 all out & 252/3 in 56 overs (Rachin Ravindra 76, Henry Nicholls 119 n.o., Daryl Mitchell 32 n.o.) vs England (O/n: 222/6): 291 all out in 84 overs (Jordan Cox 27, Matthew Fisher 50 n.o.; Matt Henry 5-80, Will O'Rourke 2-68).

Alleyne's late strike, Taylor's 19-ball 47 power WI home

LONDON, AFP: Aaliyah Alleyne's late three-wicket burst helped West Indies survive a huge scare at Headingley on Thursday as they beat Scotland by just seven runs to secure a second win in the Women's T20 World Cup.

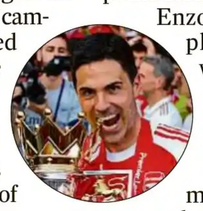
The 31-year-old medium-pacer dismissed Darcey Carter, Ailsa Lister and Kirstie Gordon in the penultimate over of the Group B encounter after Carter's half-century had given the Scots real hope of chasing down a target of 154.

Tight bowling from West Indies spinners Hayley Matthews and Afy Fletcher, who between them took 5-35, slowed Scotland's charge before Alleyne turned the screw.

Brief scores: West Indies: 153/6 in 20 overs (Shemaine Campbelle 36, Stafanie Taylor 47 n.o.; Katherine Fraser 2-34) bt Scotland: 146 all out in 20 overs (Darcey Cater 59, Alisa Lister 33; Aaliyah Alleyne 3-11, Heyley Matthews 3-19, Afy Fletcher 2-16) by 7 runs. **PoM**: Stafanie Taylor.

Arsenal will start title defence against Coventry

LONDON, AFP: Mikel Arteta's **(in pic)** Arsenal will kick off their Premier League title defence against promoted Coventry on August 21.



The Premier League fixtures for the 2026-27 campaign were released on Friday, with the Gunners' home game against Frank Lampard's Coventry among the highlights in the opening round of matches.

Coventry are back in the top-flight for the first time in 25 years after winning the Championship last season.

Andoni Iraola's first Premier League game as Liverpool manager will be at Newcastle on August 23.

Former Bournemouth boss Iraola's Anfield debut is set for the weekend of August 29 against Nottingham Forest.

Manchester City start life after Pep Guardiola at home to Bournemouth on August 23.

City are expected to appoint former Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca to replace Guardiola, who stepped down at the end of the season after a decade in charge.

New Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso begins his reign with a west London derby at Fulham on August 24.

Hull City, who won promotion via the Championship playoffs, begin their first Premier League season since 2017 with a home fixture against Manchester United on August 22.

Ipswich, promoted in second place in the Championship, host Sunderland on August 22.

Clark glows after darkness-halted day 1

SOUTHAMPTON (USA), AFP

Wyndham Clark finished his darkness-halted first round of the 126th US Open with two pars on Friday morning, completing a six-under par 64 to hold a two-stroke lead at windy Shinnecock.

The 32-year-old American, who won the 2023 US Open at Los Angeles Country Club, was among 50 players who did not conclude their first rounds Thursday due to a two-hour morning fog delay, but Friday skies were clear at the restart.

Clark set the lowest first-round score in a US Open at Shinnecock, breaking the old mark off 66 by Angel Cabrera, Shigeki Maruyama and Jay Haas in 2004 and Nick Price in 1995.

Clark owned a four-stroke overnight lead through 16 holes but compatriot Dustin Johnson, a two-time major winner, birdied the par-three seventh and par-four ninth to trim his playing partner's edge in half.

USA's Wyndham Clark plays a shot on the sixth hole during the first round of the 126th US Open at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club in Southampton, New York, on Thursday. AFP

Johnson sank a three-foot birdie putt at the seventh and a 10-footer for birdie at the ninth to complete a 66 and grab second.

Sharing third were past US Open winners Matt Fitzpatrick of England and American Gary Woodland on 67.

Fitzpatrick opened Friday with an 11-foot birdie putt at the eighth and parred the ninth while Woodland birdied the eighth from just inside 15 feet and parred the ninth.

A pack four adrift that completed two-under 68s on Thursday included amateur Ryder Cowan and fellow Americans Max McGreevy and Sam Stevens.

Two-time major winner Jon Rahm of Spain was two-under with three holes remaining.

Six-time major winner Rory McIlroy was in a pack on 69 that included American Brian Harman and Sweden's Ludvig Aberg among others.

Clark's round was one off the lowest round shot in a US Open at Shinnecock, the 63 by England's Tommy Fleetwood in 2018.

Clark said the US Open brings a chance at redemption after he smashed a locker in the clubhouse at Oakmont last year after missing the US Open cut.

Prema replaces injured Shreyanka

LEEDS, PTI: In a major blow to India, off-spinner Shreyanka Patil has been ruled out of the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup due to an ankle injury, with uncapped leg spinner Prema Rawat named as her replacement.

The 23-year-old Patil sustained the injury during India's 95-run victory over the Netherlands here on Wednesday. The incident occurred in the final over of the Powerplay when Patil twisted her ankle while attempting to stop the ball.

She was seen clutching her right leg immediately with the team physio rushing onto the field. Unable to put any weight on the injured ankle, Patil was stretchered off after bowling just one delivery.

The 24-year-old Rawat earns her maiden call-up to the senior national team. She has featured in two seasons of the Women's Premier League, playing six matches for RCB.

ARCHERY

Dhiraj: Giant slayer shaped in archery factory of Vijayawada

Childhood coach Satya harbous Olympic dreams

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid all the razzmatazz of the FIFA World Cup 2026, somewhat lost is the success of Indian recurve archery's 'miracle man' Dhiraj Bommadevara, who defeated giants South Korea not once but twice en route to a double World Cup triumph.

The 24-year-old Army Subedar from Vijayawada teamed up with teenager Kumud Mohod to beat Oh Yejin and Olympic gold medallist Kim Je Deok 5-1 for mixed team gold. He then followed it up with an individual gold, taking down another Olympic champion Lee Woo-Seok. The result would have sent ripples across the sport, even if it unfolded away from mainstream glare.

Now, the Archery World Cup — in this case Stage 3 in Antalya — does not carry the same weight as football's showpiece. It is an annual, four-stage circuit culminating in a final featuring the top eight archers in each category. The biennial World Championships, in contrast, sit just below the Olympics in stature. Yet, the opponent matters.

In archery, few names loom larger than South Korea. To understand the magnitude, recurve archery enjoys a staunch following in Korea, backed by a deeply institutionalised system featuring over 50 professional and University teams competing in a league structure to identify Olympic prospects. The outcome is also staggering in a clean sweep of all five gold medals on offer at the Paris Olympics.

Dhiraj Bommadevara defeated two Korean archers in a day to claim two gold medals at the World Cup Stage 3 in Antalya.

To outplay such a system twice in the same tournament pushes Dhiraj into a different league altogether. But it's important to understand that Indian archery's 'miracle man' is not a miracle at all as his rise is neither accidental nor isolated.

While the Archery Association of India and the Army Sports Institute personnel have shaped him into an elite competitor, along with the help from the central Target Olympic Podium Scheme, the foundation was laid much earlier. Almost two decades ago, his parents, Bommadevara Shravan Kumar and Revathi, took a young Dhiraj to coach Cherukuri Satyanarayana at the Cherukuri Volga Archery Academy.

Coach Satya remembers the first meeting he had with the quiet, skinny boy vividly.

"When he first came, there was nothing dramatic about it. He wasn't someone you recall as standing out but there was a discipline in him," Satya tells *DH* from Vijayawada. "He was willing to repeat, to listen, to correct himself again and again."

The academy itself carries a layered history. Since the inception of Volga Archery in 2005, named in memory of Satya's daughter Volga after her passing due to cancer, it has grown into one of India's most respected nurseries of talent.

To date, the academy has trained over 1,500 archers, including 38 international athletes, feeding a steady pipeline into national teams. But the journey has not been without tragedy.

In 2010, the academy suffered a devastating blow when Satya's son Lenin — himself an accomplished archer and coach — died in a road accident, which also left the coach with severe injuries, including damage to his optic nerve.

"That phase could have ended everything. We lost Lenin, and I lost my vision partially. But the academy did not stop. I told myself this cannot end here. These children, their future, that is what kept me going. Archery is not a job for me, it is my life. Whatever we have built here has come with sacrifice."

For Dhiraj, that ecosystem remains central to his identity as an archer.

"Lenin anna and Satyanarayana sir are like pillars in my career," says Dhiraj from Germany. "Without them, archery is impossible for me. Everything I am achieving today, they are equally responsible, just like my parents. What I have learned over the years is to focus on my job, no matter the situation."

Tanishi breaks national record

Aneesh, Thanya continue K'taka's gold surge

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tanishi Gupta

Karnataka swimmer Tanishi Gupta rewrote the 100m butterfly national record twice in a single day, while state-mate Thanya Shadakshari also etched her name in the record books at the National Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad on Friday.

Tanishi first broke the national mark of 1:02.51s, held by Nina Venkatesh, when she clocked 1:01.97s in the heats. The youngster then bettered her own effort in the final, touching the wall in 1:00.07s. The Karnataka swimmer also picked up a silver in the women's 100m backstroke event.

Thanya struck gold in the women's 400m individual medley. She clocked 4:56.78 to set a new meet record and emerge as the only to go below the five-minute mark.

In the men's section, Aneesh S Gowda delivered Karnataka's third gold medal of the day by winning the 200m freestyle in 1:50.65. Dharshan S added a silver medal in the same event.

Results: Men: 100m butterfly: B Benedicton Rohit (TN, 53.17) 1; Bikram Changmai (RSPB, 54.20) 2; Jananjoy Jyoti Hazarika (Assam, 54.52) 3. **200m freestyle:** Aneesh S Gowda (Kar, 1:50.65) 1; Dharshan S (Kar, 1:51.85) 2; Aryan Nehra (Guj, 1:53.35) 3. **Mixed: 4x100m medley:** Tamil Nadu 4:01.87, NMR 1; Karnataka (Akash Mani, Surya Jhoyappa O R, Naisha Shetty, Dhinidhi Desinghu; 4:02.01) 2; RSPB 4:06.71, 3. **Women: 100m butterfly:** Tanishi Gupta (Kar, 1:00.07, NMR) 1; Astha Choudhury (RSPB, 1:02.54) 2; Jahnabi Kashyap (Ass, 1:02.98) 3. **100m backstroke:** Pratyasa Ray (Odi, 1:04.75) 1; Tanishi Gupta (Kar, 1:05.19) 2; Nina Venkatesh (Kar, 1:05.61) 3. **100m breaststroke:** Saanvi Deshwal (Mah, 1:13.22) 1; S Lakshya (Kar, 1:14.26) 2; Harshitha Jayaram (RSPB, 1:14.62) 3. **400m medley:** Thanya Shadakshari (Kar, 4:56.78, NMR) 1; Saanvi Deshwal (Mah, 5:01.88) 2; Shreenithi Natesan (TN, 5:10.30) 3.

Sameeksha scalps top seed en route to final

BENGALURU, DHNS: Fourth-seeded Sameeksha HN pulled off an upset by knocking out top seed Lakshya Rajesh to set up women's single title clash with Muskaan Khan in the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka State U-19 and Senior-ranking tournament in Mandya on Friday.

In the semifinals, Sameeksha lost her first game before emerging a 14-21, 21-19, 21-19 winner while Muskaan had it relatively easy against Selvasamruddhi Selvaprabhu 21-19, 21-19.

Laksh Chengappa will fight it out against Harshad Shadish in the men's singles final.

Results: Men's singles (semifinals): Laksh Chengappa bt Abhishek K K 21-19, 21-16; Harshad Shadish bt Rudra Shahi 21-23, 21-11, 21-18.
Quarterfinals: Abhishek bt Tilak B Shetty 21-12, 25-23; Laksh bt Hemantha Gowda 23-21, 21-16; Harshad Shadish bt Kaushik Reddy 19-21, 21-18, 21-15; Rudra Shahi bt Lal Sai Bandu 25-23, 21-23, 21-17.
Women's singles semifinals: Sameeksha HN bt Lakshya Rajesh 14-21, 21-19, 21-19; Muskaan Khan bt Selvasamruddhi Selvaprabhu 21-19, 21-19.
Quarterfinals: Lakshya bt Siyona Kolla 21-13, 21-7; Sameeksha bt Ananyasree Murali 21-14, 21-8; Muskaan bt Disha Santosh 21-13, 21-17; Selvasamruddhi bt Anvitha Vijay 19-21, 21-4, 21-15.
Boys singles (U-19) semifinals: Hardik Divyansh bt Hardhik Mohanty 20-22, 21-11, 21-16.
Quarterfinals: Harshad Shadish bt Pradyot Ravi 13-21, 21-14, 21-16; Mayukh DB bt Nischal S 21-13, 21-15; Mohanty bt Peeyush Tripathy 21-14, 18-21 21-16; Divyansh bt Kaushik Reddy 17-21, 21-4, 21-16.
Girls singles semifinals: Disha Santosh bt Lakshya Rajesh (w/o); Aashi Das bt Supreetha Deepak 19-21, 21-14, 21-18.
Quarterfinals: Disha bt Selvasamruddhi 21-15, 19-21, 21-18; Lakshya bt Gauri Satish 21-15, 21-17; Supreetha Deepak bt Banashree C Patil 15-21, 21-18, 21-19; Aashi Das bt Nidhi Atmaram 21-18, 21-16.

B'luru's Ishaan honoured

BENGALURU, DHNS

Efforts are on to bring Formula 1 back to India by 2030 besides a round of the World Rally Championship (WRC) and MotoGP by 2028, said FMSCI President Arindam Ghosh, after a meeting with the Sports Ministry in Delhi on Thursday.

Later at the FMSCI Annual Awards function here, Ghosh added: "The federation stressed the need to develop Indian drivers and the overall development of motorsports in India and the FMSCI's inputs were well received in the meeting."

At the Awards Night on Friday, all the Motorsports National champions for 2025 were honoured and 137 trophies across 17 disciplines, both two-wheelers and four wheelers, were presented.

Akbar Ebrahim, FIA-CIK Karting Commission president, awarded Arshi Gupta, the youngest National champion at 9 years. FMSCI

The youngest National champion at 9 years, Arshi Gupta of Faridabad, Bengaluru's Ishaan Madesh and Eshanth Vengatesan of Chennai and bagged FIA president's medals for National karting.

Special awards were also given for international achievements to Hyderabad's Naveen Puligilla and Musa Sherif of Kasargod, the first 'Indian driver and co-driver team' to secure a WRC3 class podium finish at a World Rally Championship round, and Bengaluru's Aishwarya Pissay, the first Indian woman to win a round of the FIM Women's Circuit Racing World Championship in Portugal last year.

Indian players (from left) Aditya Mehta, Pankaj Advani and Ketan Chawla with coach Ashok Shandilya (second from left) pose with their spoils.

Advani heroics in vain as India settle for silver

BENGALURU, DHNS: Pankaj Advani won both his singles clashes but India's title hopes went up in smoke as they lost 2-3 to hosts China 'A' in the World Team Snooker Championship gold medal clash in Guangdong, China, on Friday.

With the final in the balance at 2-2, an out-of-sorts Aditya Mehta came up short in the crucial decider against Li Chengjie. In a frame that could have gone either way, the error-prone India No. 2 failed to take the chances that came his way and let the hosts walk away with the title.

The humid conditions and the resulting behaviour of the table – way too much throw off the cushion -- likely played a role in the error-strewn final, as players from both countries struggled.

Advani gave India the first rubber, prevailing in a battle of attrition against Chengjie. With both players struggling to adapt to the conditions, safety play was the name of the game. Advani, known as much for his tactical play as his break-building prowess, came out on top.

However, a huge slice of luck helped him produce a frame-clinching break of 36. The Chinese cueist tried to snooker him behind the green near the bottom cushion. While trying to escape the snooker off the side cushion, he sank a red into the top right-hand pocket to give India the lead.

Mehta, who endured a poor day at the office, went down to Xu Jiarui 34-66.

Result (Final): China 'A' bt India 3-2 (Li Chengjie lost to Pankaj Advani 19-54; Xu Jiarui bt Aditya Mehta 66-34; Jiarui/ Pan Yiming bt Advani/ Mehta 79-0; Advani bt Jiarui 82-4; Chengjie bt Mehta 68-32).

Mannat races away to a fine victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lying tied-seventh and five shots behind the leader after two rounds, Mannat Brar stepped on the gas to overtake everybody ahead of her and race away with the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour Leg 8 trophy here on Friday.

Despite a fumble in the very first hole where she made a bogey, the rookie on tour from Maharashtra shot eight birdies thereafter for a seven-under 61 that gave her a spectacular victory. After rounds of 67 and 68, Mannat's final surge saw her end with a three-day total of eight-under 196.

Another pro, Vidhatri Urs, also decided to up the ante but fell one-shot short as the Mysuru girl's five-under 63 was only enough to help her finish as the runner-up.

Final standings (after 54 holes): 196: Mannat Brar (67, 68, 61); **197:** Vidhatri Urs (69, 65, 63); **199:** Zara Anand (64, 66, 69); **200:** Jasmine Shekar (68, 67, 65).

Mannat Brar

Tanishka, Aakash bag state U-17 TT titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tanishka Kalabhairav and Aakash KJ emerged the singles champions of the U-17 girls' and boys' categories of the LIC Cup Karnataka State-ranking Table Tennis tournament in Mysuru on Friday.

The girls' final saw Tanishka defeat Hiya Singh in straight games 11-8, 11-9, 11-7 while Aakash fought off Abhinav K Murthy 11-5, 13-11, 11-7, 11-5 in the boys' final at the University of Mysore's Gymnasium Hall.

Results: U-17: Finals only:
Boys: Aakash K J bt Abhinav K Murthy 11-5, 13-11, 11-7, 11-5.
Girls: Tanishka Kalabhairav bt Hiya Singh 11-8, 11-9, 11-7.

Tanishka Kalabhairav (left) and Aakash KJ.

Ashmita storms into semis

MACAU, PTI

Indian shuttler Ashmita Chaliha continued her impressive comeback from injury, defeating Korea's Kim Min Sun in straight games to enter the women's singles semifinals, but compatriot Anmol Kharb bowed out after a quarterfinal defeat at the Macau Open Super 300 tournament here on Friday.

The 26-year-old from Assam, who returned to competition in May after a three-month injury layoff, took 37 minutes to see off world No.99 Kim 21-16 21-18 to continue her impressive run.

It is her first semifinal appearance in a BWF tour event this year. She had registered quarterfinal finishes at the China Masters Super 100 and Malaysia Masters super 500 events since returning to the court.

World No. 63 Ashmita, who had to undergo surgery and an extensive rehabilitation period after suffering a medial meniscus tear in her right knee during the Korea Open, will now face Korea's Park Ga Eun for a place in the final.

In the other match, world No. 51 Anmol, however, failed to capitalise on a strong start, going down 21-14 15-21 13-21 to fourth seed Han Qian Xi, ranked 36th in the world.

Ashmita and Kim were locked in a close battle in the opening game, with the scores level at 14-14 before the Indian eventually pocket the game.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E- RD 36 GRC 2026 Date:24.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Police Inspector, CCB, Bengaluru City and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that the accused in the case registered at CCB Police Station, Bengaluru City, Vide FIR No. 0087/2025 Sandeep A. Gayakwad @ Sandeep in this case is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that said accused Sandeep A. Gayakwad @ Sandeep in this case and people associating with him have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of the Sandeep A. Gayakwad @ Sandeep in this case and people associating with him are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors in the said case FIR No. 0087/2025.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Police Inspector, CCB, Bengaluru City and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) here by makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and Immovable properties believed to belong to accused Sandeep A. Gayakwad @ Sandeep in this case.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches all the movable properties as specified in the Annexure to this order believed to have been acquired by the accused Sandeep A. Gayakwad @ Sandeep in this case either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the depositors in the case registered at CCB Police Station, Bengaluru City, vide FIR No. 0087/2025 and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said accused, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said case is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid movable properties, from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forthwith vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department
(Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure-1

Details of the Bank Accounts attached in connection with Crime No. 0087/2025

Sl. No.	Name of the Account Holder	Name of the Bank	Bank Account Number and IFSC Code	Total Amount Available
1	Rakesh T. V	HDFC Bank, Brokkefileds Branch, Doddanekundi Industrial Area, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru	50100024543216 HDFC0002870	Rs. 19307.00
2	Mahankali Venkatesh	Axis Bank, Mumbai Branch, Maharashtra	911010027314553 UTIB0000004	Rs.4,20,000.00
3	Aloka PS	SBI, Papparedy Palya Branch, Bengaluru	64185927209	Rs. 1,40,000.00
4	Rajashekara H. N	SBI, Puttenahalli Branch, Bengaluru	54000212968	Rs. 4000.00
5	Gajendra B. M	ICICI Indiranagara Branch, Bengaluru	016901584340 ICIC0000169	Rs. 8,000.00
6	K. Shankar	ICICI, Vijayanagara Branch, Bengaluru	015901005054 ICIC0000159	Rs. 35,000.00
7	Surya Singh Bista	Indian Bank, K.R. Puram, Ayyappa Nagara, Bengaluru	50519335709	Rs. 8,850,00
8	Shruthi S	Karnataka Bank, Kunigal, Tumkur District.	4442500101428501 KARB0000444	Rs. 8,000.00
9	Shweta Rani U	IDBI, Mission Road Branch, Bengaluru	0008104000322386 IBL0000008	Rs. 15,000.00
10	Bharath Gowda	Yes Bank, IFC Mumbai Branch, Maharashtra	065363400001641 YESB0000419	Rs. 3,00,000.00
11	Kalva Mahalakshmi	Indusland Bank, Vijayanagara Bengaluru	159880965450	Rs. 50,000.00
12	Shruthi KU	HDFC Bank, Ground Floor, No. 39, Main Road, Near Mangalore PU College, Bengaluru	50100544869072	Rs. 25000.00
			Total	Rs. 10,33,157.00

Sd/- (Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department
(Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/1243/2026-27

TEAMS: 48 VE 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Swiss subs rule the roost to choke Bosnia & Herzegovina

LOS ANGELES, AFP

Super subs Johan Manzambi and Ruben Vargas fired Switzerland to a 4-1 win over 10-man Bosnia & Herzegovina in a late rush of goals in Los Angeles on Thursday.

The result gave the Swiss a strong chance of reaching the knockout round as one of the top two teams in Group B.

They had been controlling a largely tepid stalemate at the SoFi Stadium until coach Murat Yakin rang the changes in the 72nd minute, bringing on the pair of forwards who immediately transformed the game.

Bosnia's attempted clearance from a Vargas cross felt to Manzambi who volleyed home with his first touch of the game, before Manzambi turned creator for a Vargas finish.

In between those goals, Bosnia had Tarik Muharemovic sent off for a desperate sliding tackle on Breel Embolo, who was clear through on goal.

The afternoon got worse for Bosnia as Vargas then assisted another finish for 20-year-old Freiburg star Manzambi.

Ermin Mamhic pulled back a spectacular consolation from a corner, but a Granit Xhaka penalty in stoppage time sealed the rout.

Switzerland go top of Group B on four points, three clear of the other teams, with Canada and Qatar playing later Thursday.

The Swiss had the better of the early exchanges.

Veteran midfielders Xhaka and Remo Freuler orchestrated forays down the left flank to Dan Ndoye, which fizzled out with poor crosses and lackluster finishing.

Having started very deep, the Bosnians slowly grew into the half.

Forty-year-old star Edin Dzeko created their first big chance in the 32nd minute, cleverly switching play across the six-yard box to Benjamin Tahirovic, who failed to connect at the far post.

Ndoye nearly gave Switzerland a spectacular lead after the break, smashing a bicycle kick from Xhaka's cross toward Nikola Vasilj, who did well to palm it over the bar.

An increasingly frustrated Dzeko earned a booking for bulldozing Manuel Akanji, and was substituted.

Yakin made three changes in the 72nd minute, and two minutes later, two of those subsitutes combined to finally put his side ahead.

Vargas ran up the left wing, his first cross bounced back to him, and on his second attempt, Amar Memic's attempted headed clearance fell to Manzambi, who volleyed home.

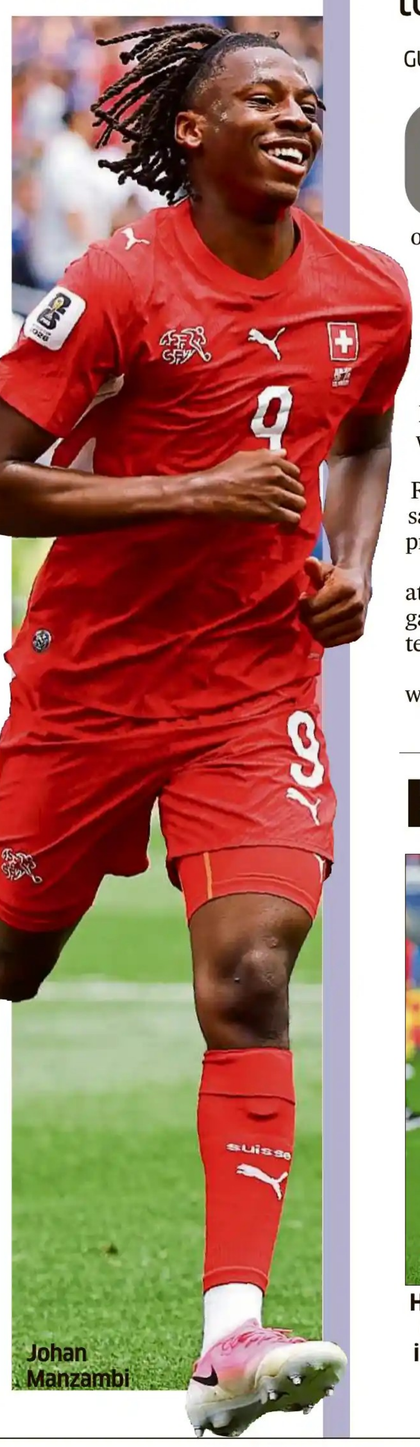
Switzerland	Bosnia and Herzegovina
4	1

Muharemovic was dismissed in the 79th minute for a sliding tackle from behind on Embolo.

The floodgates then opened. In the 84th minute Manzambi, coming in from the right, found Embolo who played it to an open Vargas to slot home.

Six minutes later, Vargas cut back to Manzambi, who guided the ball across the 'keeper.

Three minutes into stoppage time, Gregor Kobel slapped a corner out to Bosnian substitute Mamhic, who rifled his shot home.


Johan Manzambi

Co-hosts Mexico relied on a solitary goal by Luis Romo in the second half to book their tickets for the knockout stages of the FIFA World Cup. AP/PTI

Mexico pounce on error-prone South Korea

Co-hosts become first team to enter knockout rounds

GUADALAJARA (MEXICO), AFP

Co-hosts Mexico became the first team to reach the knockout rounds of the World Cup with a 1-0 win over South Korea at a delirious Guadalajara Stadium on Thursday.

After a dreary first period, Luis Romo's goal just after half-time thanks to a goalkeeping error put Mexico through as Group A winners with a match to go.

Mexico stopper Raul Rangel made a superb double save in the dying minutes to preserve their lead.

Finishing top keeps Mexico at home in the last 32 with a game against a third-placed team in Mexico City.

"It's really difficult to deal with the emotions," coach Javier Aguirre said of the challenges going into the game.

He reserved special praise for Rangel and the supporters in Guadalajara.

"His save was just amazing," said Aguirre.

"It was quite a tactical match, and hard to digest for the fans, but they were outstanding.

"I would just like to say thank you to them, they've been fantastic ever since we got here.

"Mexico jerseys were everywhere, everywhere you turned it was green shirts."

South Korea are second on three points, with the Czech Republic and South Africa also still alive on one.

Hong Myung-bo's side face South Africa next and are still in a good position to advance.

Tale of 2 keepers

Aguirre made three changes from the side that beat South Africa 2-0 a week ago to open the tournament.

Hong made just one alteration for South Korea, largely keeping faith with the team that fought back to defeat the Czech Republic 2-1.

Skipper Son Heung-min had the first sniff at goal after 15 minutes, looping the ball over Rangel only for Edson Alvarez to prevent it going in with a bicycle kick on the line.

Mexico	South korea
1	0

Los Angeles FC attacker Son was belatedly flagged for offside although replays suggested it was a close call.

Julian Quinones, who scored the opening goal of the tournament, then forced South Korea goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu into a good save from a header, raising the decibels.

The rest of an uneventful half belonged to South Korea as they stroked the ball around at will, without ever creating a clear chance, but they did succeed in silencing the home support.

Jeers rang out at half-time from the Mexico fans.

The hosts started the second period with far more intent, and five minutes in they went ahead when the goalkeeper Kim came for a high ball and clattered into his own player, spilling it straight to Romo.

He just needed to poke the ball first time into an unguarded net, triggering pandemonium.

Hong surprisingly hauled off the veteran talisman Son before the hour and threw on Hwang Hee-chan of Wolverhampton Wanderers.

But the Koreans were mostly toothless going forward until the final few minutes, when Guadalajara native Rangel came to Mexico's rescue.

They will face the Czech Republic in their final group game.

Luis Romo (left) celebrates scoring Mexico's goal with team-mate Erik Lira. AP/PTI

Humbled by defeats, Turkey & Paraguay desperate for win

Hakan Calhanoglu-led Turkey were considered USA's strongest rivals in the group before they lost 0-2 to Australia. REUTERS

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, REUTERS

Paraguay and Turkey head into Friday's World Cup Group D clash with little margin for error after opening defeats left both sides playing catch-up in the race for the knockout rounds.

Turkey were stunned 2-0 by Australia in Vancouver, while Paraguay suffered a chastening 4-1 loss to co-hosts the United States in Los Angeles. With the U.S. and Australia also meeting on Friday, the Group D picture will become clearer before kickoff at the San Francisco Bay Area Stadium.

But regardless of the early result, another defeat for Turkey or Paraguay would leave them with a daunting final-round scenario and likely relying on other results across the 48-team tournament to stay alive. Talent-laden Turkey, led by captain Hakan Calhanoglu and inspired by 21-year-old Real Madrid attacker Arda Guler, were tipped to be the US's strongest challengers in the group on their return to the World Cup for the first time in 24 years.

Yet coach Vincenzo Montella was left frustrated after watching his side thwarted by a colossal Australia defensive effort for all the Turks' possession and relentless attacking.

Collapse of discipline

Paraguay's return to the World Cup after a 16-year absence proved even more painful for Gustavo Alfaro's side as the US made a mockery of the South Americans' reputation for defensive organisation.

Five Paraguay players earned yellow cards in a collapse of discipline, including key attacker Miguel Almiron, so they will need to tread carefully against the Turks.

A second yellow card for any of the five would mean a suspension for the final match against Australia. Exposed repeatedly on the counter-attack against the United States of America, "La Albirroja" ("the red and white") can ill-afford to be passive against technically superior opponents.

On Saturday
Brazil vs **Haiti** (6 am)
Turkiye vs **Paraguay** (8:30 am)
Netherlands vs **Sweden** (10:30 pm)
On Sunday
Germany vs **Ivory Coast** (1:30 am)
Ecuador vs **Curacao** (5:30 am)
All timings in IST

They must find more ways to release the creativity of attacker Julio Enciso, who provided the assist for their sole goal to substitute Mauricio against the co-hosts.

Australia offered a blueprint in how to beat the more fancied Turkey but only if Paraguay can follow it.

David nets treble as Canada hammer Qatar

LOS ANGELES, AFP

Canada thrashed nine-man Qatar 6-0 to secure their first ever World Cup victory on Thursday as Switzerland reignited their campaign with a resounding defeat of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Tournament co-hosts Canada had lost all six of their previous matches at the World Cup, at the 1986 and 2022 finals, but brought that run of losses to a halt in spectacular fashion at Vancouver's BC Place Stadium.

With Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney -- wearing a replica Canada shirt -- among a fired-up crowd, Jesse Marsch's side ran riot to secure a win that leaves them needing only a point against Switzerland to finish top of Group B.

A hat-trick from Juventus striker Jonathan David, one goal apiece from Cyle Larin and Nathan Saliba, and a Mohammad Manai own goal sealed Canada's win. The victory was marred though by a serious left leg injury to midfielder Ismael Kone, who was stretchered off after being clumsily upended by Qatar's Assim Madibo in the 51st minute.

Canada	Qatar
6	0

Madibo was initially shown a yellow card for the challenge which was subsequently upgraded to red. The stricken Kone was given oxygen as he was carried off the field, waving to fans.

Canada coach Jesse Marsch revealed afterwards Kone was being treated in hospital for a suspected broken leg, adding that his staff had understood the severity of the injury immediately.

"It was right in front of us, and everyone could hear the bone snap," Marsch said. "I haven't spoken to Ismael yet, but he's at the hospital. He will prepare for a surgery.

"Everybody's a little shaken by the whole experience because of the nature of the injury, and also because Ismael is a big part of the heart of our team."

Jonathan David scores Canada's sixth goal to complete his hat-trick during their win against Qatar on Thursday. REUTERS

Canada's Kone to undergo surgery

VANCOUVER, AP: Canada's historic first World Cup victory was overshadowed by a gruesome injury to midfielder Ismael Kone.

Kone injured his left leg when Qatar midfielder Assim Madibo tackled him from behind in the second half, sending the 24-year-old to the ground. Kone grimaced and players rushed to his aid.

Madibo was sent off for the tackle on Kone, who was protectively surrounded by his teammates while he was treated on the field before he was stretchered off.

"I saw his leg. I saw that something wasn't right," Canada captain Stephen Eustaquio said. He was among one of the first players to reach Kone.

Canada's Ismael Kone waves to the crowd while receiving oxygen as he is stretchered off after sustaining an injury during their game against Qatar on Thursday. REUTERS

Kone was whisked to a local hospital were he was preparing for surgery while surrounded by family, Canada coach Jesse Marsch said. He said the injury happened right in front of the bench, and you could hear the "bones snap."

"Everybody was crushed when it happened, but we had to find a way to stay focused, we knew that Ismaël wanted us to finish the job," Marsch said. "There's a lot of thoughts that go through our heads right now, we're all thinking about him."

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

FIFA WORLD CUP

Rescue dog Osito steals hearts

As World Cup fever sweeps Mexico City, one of the tournament's biggest fan favourites isn't a player, coach or official mascot. Joining Merlin the duck in the pantheon of heart-stealers is Osito, an 8-year-old rescue poodle mix who's become an unlikely sensation after arriving at Mexico's opening match perched on the back of a cargo bicycle, dressed in a Mexico jersey, sunglasses and a cap.

As thousands of fans streamed toward the stadium last week for the tournament opener, many stopped to snap photos, pet the dog and post videos online. Within hours, Osito was appearing on international broadcasts and spreading across social media, transforming the bicycle-riding dog into one of the World Cup's most charming viral stars. For his owner, Jorge Rangel, the attention is less about internet fame than the companionship he shares with the dog.

Japan male fans told to 'clean at homes too'

Images of Samurai Blue fans cleaning up World Cup stadiums have garnered them widespread praise, but back in Japan, a post has gone viral complaining men rarely do so at home, reports AFP from Tokyo.

FIFA lauded Japanese fans this week on social media platform X for their "impeccable manners" that saw them tidy up the stands post-game.

"Japanese men spend among the least time on housework internationally," read the post, which has been viewed 1.9 million times.

Taiwan fumes over China's offer

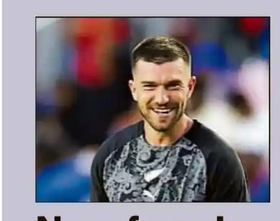
Taiwan's government has criticised an "irrelevant" offer by China for Taiwanese fans to use Chinese websites or even visit the country to watch the World Cup, reports Reuters from Taipei.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, often likes to tout the benefits of life there to Taiwanese people. China's Taiwan Affairs Office, responding to a question about an unnamed Taiwanese entertainer complaining they could not find WC broadcasts in Taiwan, said China has rights to show matches.

Iran to lodge complaint with FIFA over WC restrictions

The Iranian football federation said Thursday it will lodge a complaint with FIFA claiming its team is being subjected to travel restrictions during the World Cup in North America, reports AFP from Tijuana, Mexico.

Iran wanted to fly from their base camp in Tijuana, Mexico, to the United States two days before their next match, against Belgium in Los Angeles on Sunday. But a spokesman for the Iranian federation said its request was turned down. The Iranians were also angry that they had to leave Los Angeles the night of their first game, a 2-2 draw against New Zealand.



New-found Insta fame lands Payne big deal

New Zealand's World Cup social media sensation Tim Payne has capitalised on his newfound fame, with the defender announcing that he has signed for Paraguayan powerhouse Olimpia, reports AFP from Wellington.

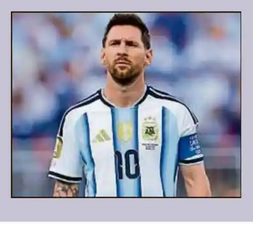
His current club, Wellington Phoenix, confirmed his sale. His Instagram following grew to more than five million in the space of a week after an influencer sought to boost the following of the tournament's "least followed" player.

Messi's father undergoes treatment

Lionel Messi's father is undergoing medical treatment for an undisclosed illness and his family asked the media for "humanity" on Thursday amid rumors about Jorge Messi's health while his son competes at the World Cup, reports AP from Dallas.

The family did not specify the illness that the 68-year-old Jorge Messi is suffering from.

"Jorge is going through a health situation," the Messi family said. "He is under medical observation."



Tricky Ivory Coast threat awaits giants Germany

All eyes on winger Diomande against Europeans

BOSTON (MASSACHUSETTS), REUTERS

One name on every Germany player's mind is Ivory Coast winger Yan Diomande, whose meteoric rise in the Bundesliga has seen him emerge as the biggest threat to the four-time world champions when they face the African nation in the World Cup on Saturday.

The Group E match in Toronto will be the first real test for Germany, who crushed minnows Curacao 7-1 in their opener on Sunday and are now on a 10-game winning run, but they are well aware of what is up next.

Their defence will have to stop the powerful 19-year-old Diomande if they are to make it two wins in a row and advance to the knockout stage of a World Cup for the first time since 2014.

The teenager scored his first professional goal just 13 months ago when he was playing for Leganes in Spain and got his breakthrough with a move to RB Leipzig in the Bundesliga in July 2025.

Germany players during a training session at Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina ahead of their match against Ivory Coast. AFP

He racked up 12 Bundesliga goals and eight assists in his first season with the German club and has become a major transfer target for top European sides.

"He has had a brutal development. A year ago hardly anyone knew him," Germany captain Joshua Kimmich said. "He just had an outstanding season even though Leipzig had some problems. He was consistent and very spectacular. His dribbling is exceptional with this start-stop dribbling, with extreme acceleration. Amazing speed.

"A very good player," Kimmich said.

Diomande's pace, creativity and goal-scoring abilities helped Leipzig to a third-placed finish and a Champions League spot.

Germany, who won their last World Cup title 12 years ago in Brazil, suffered shock first-round exits both in the 2018 and the 2022 editions, their worst record in the competition's history. They are desperate this time to seal their knockout spot as quickly as possible.

While Germany easily won their opener, the Ivorians needed a late winner to edge past Ecuador 1-0 and join the Germans on three points, second only on goal difference.

"We'll have to keep a very close eye on Diomande. Diomande stands out," said Germany defender Antonio Ruediger. "But also Nicolas Pepe and Amad Diallo. These are like express trains that you see coming. They love one-on-one situations and the quick transitions. We have to be prepared."

Neuer to retire again

Germany's veteran keeper Manuel Neuer will go back into international retirement after the end of the World Cup, having returned to the team just for the tournament, he said on Thursday.

Neuer, a 2014 World Cup winner who is 40 years old and playing his fifth consecutive World Cup as Germany's starting keeper, had retired after their Euro 2024 quarterfinal exit on home soil. He was a surprise selection in coach Julian Nagelsmann's squad after a strong second half to the season with club Bayern Munich.

High-flying Sweden take on hurting Dutch

HOUSTON, REUTERS

Sweden head into their Group F clash against the Netherlands in Houston on Saturday flying high after producing their best World Cup scoring performance in 88 years, while the Dutch aim to regain confidence following a disappointing opening draw.

A victory would put the Swedes -- who thrashed Tunisia 5-1 in their opener -- through to the knockout rounds in a reversal of fortunes for a team that only qualified for the tournament via the European playoffs.

The Dutch were undefeated in qualifying for the tournament but an unsatisfying 2-2 draw with Japan raised questions about whether coach Ronald Koeman got his tactics right when reverting to a defensive set-up late in the match before conceding in the 89th minute.

After sometimes playing too passively against Japan, the Dutch know they require a vastly improved performance against a Sweden side revitalised under English coach Graham Potter and brimming with confidence after scoring their most goals in a World Cup game since 1938.

The Netherlands have dangerous players such as Cody Gakpo, Frenkie de Jong and Denzel Dumfries, who can provide the danger that was missing against Japan.

One concern is whether the Netherlands' all-time top goal-scorer Memphis Depay -- who came off the bench but failed to make an impact -- can shake off recent thigh trouble to offer pace and guile to break down a compact Sweden defence.

"Memphis is almost ready," Koeman said following the Japan match. "I can feel he's coming, and then I put him on the pitch, but we couldn't attack anymore." I'm aware that we need to play better," he added.

Sweden enter the match in Houston knowing another win puts them in a position to finish top of the group under Potter, who took over last October and guided the team to the WC.

Netherlands' Virgil van Dijk (left) and Memphis Depay during a training session, ahead of their crucial match against Sweden. REUTERS

No dimming tragedy-struck Diomande's light

LEIPZIG (GERMANY), AFP: Two years after leaving the United States following a series of unsuccessful MLS tryouts, Yan Diomande is shining at the World Cup for Ivory Coast -- and still grieving a family tragedy.

Diomande, 19, made his Ivory Coast debut in October and scored in his first two matches.

On Saturday, the RB Leipzig winger faces his adopted home of Germany in Toronto having grown into one of the Elephants' most dangerous attacking threats.

Diomande's development has come despite having to live with the death last year of his 15-year-old sister, who died after a stranger spiked her drink at a party.

In an emotional post on the Players' Tribune website on Thursday entitled "Dear Roxane", Diomande wrote to her: "The pitch is the only place that I feel at home anymore. It's the place where I feel calm, and I can speak to you. I just wish you were still here so I could tell you.... We did it."

He wonders if he could have protected her, the little sister with whom he used to dream of one day moving to France.

"I never got any answers," Diomande laments. "I don't know if I want to know why. Maybe it was jealousy. Maybe it's just something that happens in our country. Maybe I could have protected you. I don't know. So much has happened since I last saw you... You would not even believe it. I don't know if I believe it."

Yan Diomande won the Man of the Match award on his debut at World Cup at 19 years old during Ivory Coast's win over Ecuador. X

What has happened is that Diomande's performances have forced him onto the radar of Europe's elite. He said he was not getting ahead of himself despite being linked with Liverpool and Paris Saint-Germain -- and talk of a $116 million price tag.

"I'm not the person who likes to be in the future so quickly," Diomande said.

"I'm going step by step because I have a new dream every day... I want to be one of the best. But I want to go slowly, slowly, step by step to reach what I can do."

Ecuador-Curacao face-off in high stakes encounter

Curacao's Leandro Bacuna (left) and Ecuador's midfielder Moises Caicedo will be key to their teams' fortunes. AFP

KANSAS CITY, REUTERS

Ecuador face Curacao in Kansas City on Saturday knowing that even at this early stage of the World Cup, the stakes are already rising sharply for both sides after opening-day defeats.

Drawn alongside Germany and the Ivory Coast in Group E, Ecuador arrived at the tournament as one of South America's more quietly fancied teams, built on defensive discipline.

But their campaign began with frustration, a 1-0 defeat by the Ivory Coast in which they created chances but lacked the cutting edge to convert them.

Now, Sebastian Beccacece's men must respond, with anything less than three points leaving them facing an uphill battle heading into their final group game against Germany.

"When you don't start the way you wanted, the anxiety appears," Beccacece said. "But now we need more conviction than ever, more belief than ever, more confidence than ever."

Ecuador's identity remains clear. The team conceded five goals in 18 qualifying matches and are anchored by a defensive core featuring Paris St Germain's Willian Pacho and Piero Hincapie of Arsenal, with Chelsea's Moises Caicedo providing energy and control in midfield.

DH DECCAN HERALD

Don't Miss
Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

FOOD & DRINK
Sweet treats from Goa

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The liver enigma

ART & PURSUITS
Botany and the Empire

TRAVEL
Sri Lanka: A unique blend

GENDER
Songs of resistance

WELLNESS
The muscle flex

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Saturday, June 20, 2026

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ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

STRETCH, BREATHE AND GET ON THE ROAD TO WELLNESS

PAGE 02

HUES FOR THE MONSOON MONTHS

PAGE 03

FATHER'S DAY: GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR DAD

PAGE 04

Comfort food for a rainy weekend

If the rain is stopping you from going out, you will need something comforting to do. How about rustling up some comfort food? **Jayanthi Madhukar** has two suggestions

Paneer Tikka

Paneer is a surefire success no matter how it is presented. A quick recipe - in a large bowl prepare a mix of yogurt, ginger-garlic paste, oil and spices in a smooth marinade. Add paneer cubes, onion petals and bell pepper, coating everything evenly. Cover and refrigerate for 20–30 minutes, or up to four hours for deeper flavour. For a stovetop, cook on a lightly-oiled grill pan for 2–3 minutes per side until charred. Alternatively, skewer and bake at 230 degrees C for 10–12 minutes, broiling for the final two minutes.

Chocolate Fudge

Nothing beats chocolate. An easy recipe - melt 100 gm butter in a saucepan over low heat. Stir in quarter cup (unsweetened) cocoa powder until smooth and glossy. Add one can (about 400 gm) sweetened condensed milk and cook for 4–5 minutes, stirring constantly until the mixture thickens and begins to leave the sides of the pan. Pour into a greased or parchment-lined tray and smoothen the surface. Refrigerate for 2–3 hours until firm. Cut into squares, garnish with nuts and serve.

Timely treatment is key to stroke recovery

Every minute counts during a stroke, making early symptom recognition and prompt medical intervention crucial for recovery, says **Dr Surbhi Chaturvedi**, Consultant – Neurology and Head of Stroke Program, **Aster Whitefield Hospital.**

Stroke is a growing health concern in India, with cases rising significantly over the past decade. Early identification of symptoms and immediate medical attention can make a substantial difference in treatment outcomes and recovery. Greater awareness of stroke symptoms and risk factors can help ensure that patients receive care within the critical treatment wind.

Recognising the signs of a stroke

A simple way to recognise stroke symptoms is through the BE FAST approach: sudden loss of Balance, vision problems affecting the Eyes, facial drooping (Face), weakness in the Arms, difficulty with Speech, and the importance of Time. Prompt action is critical, as brain cells begin to die within minutes of a stroke. Even symptoms that appear briefly and disappear should not be ignored, as they may indicate an underlying problem that requires urgent evaluation.

Immediate professional care matters

Patients who reach a stroke-ready hospital early may receive clot-dissolving medication, while those with large vessel blockages may benefit from mechanical thrombectomy, a minimally invasive procedure that removes the clot and restores blood flow to the brain. Despite these advances, delayed treatment remains common due to lack of awareness or reliance on unproven remedies.

Seeking emergency medical attention at the earliest can significantly improve the chances of recovery and reduce the risk of long-term disability.

Prevention and recovery

Lifestyle factors such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, stress and physical inactivity significantly increase stroke risk. Managing these conditions, maintaining a healthy diet, exercising regularly and undergoing routine health screenings can help prevent strokes. People should also not ignore a Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) or mini-stroke. Although symptoms may resolve within minutes, a TIA is often a warning sign of a future stroke and warrants urgent medical evaluation.

Recovery extends beyond emergency treatment and often involves physiotherapy, speech therapy, swallowing therapy and cognitive rehabilitation. A structured rehabilitation programme, combined with ongoing medical management and family support, can help stroke survivors regain function, improve independence and enhance their quality of life.

Dr Surbhi Chaturvedi

Understanding the burden of a stroke

- Stroke cases in India have nearly doubled over the past decade
- Around 1.8 lakh people suffer a stroke every year
- One Indian experiences a stroke every 20 seconds
- One in five Indians is likely to suffer a stroke during their lifetime
- Every minute during a stroke, nearly 1.9 million brain cells can be damaged

*All prices are ex-showroom India. All variants showcased are top models. Vehicle body colour may differ due to the printing process. All variants are subject to availability. Accessories and features shown in the pictures may not be a part of standard equipment and will differ according to the variant. Available in select cities. ~Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) is not a substitute for human eye and driver vigilance, it is a driver assist system that enhances driving experience and safety. The driver shall remain responsible for safe, vigilant and attentive driving. <The range is as per various test conditions carried at government affiliated agencies. #Performance may vary based on vehicle Battery capacity, environmental conditions, and connected devices. In view of our policy of continuously improving our products, JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. reserves the right to discontinue any variant or to alter any specifications, features and designs without prior notice and without liability. For any doubts or clarifications, please reach out to your nearest MG dealership to understand the applicable terms and conditions. **Specified range is as per standard MIDC test procedure (Part 1 + Part 2), carried out by certifying authority. Range may vary depending on various driving behaviour, traffic conditions, speed, vehicle loads etc. ^T&C Apply. Offer and benefits are applicable only on selected / select variants. >To know more visit https://www.mgmotor.co.in/vehicles/windsor-ev-electric-car-in-india/terms-and-condition for more details. The newspaper-style visual depicted is entirely fictional and has been created solely for illustrative and creative purposes. It does not reproduce, resemble, or represent any actual newspaper, publication, article, headline, statement, directive, or report. Any references to public interest themes, leadership viewpoints, or national priorities are generic and non-attributive in nature and are not intended to refer to, quote, depict, or imply the views, statements, endorsement, approval, or association of any real person, constitutional authority, public office, or government body, including the Prime Minister of India or any government official. No governmental endorsement, policy communication, or official position is intended or implied. The visual is a creative representation intended solely to convey a general awareness message.

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Wknd.

JUNE 21
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
yoga

A simple daily practice improves your physical, mental and emotional well-being, says yoga therapist **Krupa Patel**

Stretch, breathe and get on the road to wellness

Yoga helps control blood pressure, sugar levels

Hypertension and diabetes are two of the most common lifestyle disorders today. Yoga promotes stability in both, reduces long-term complications and supports healthier aging, says consultant endocrinologist **Dr Abhijit Bhograj**

Yoga is a holistic practice that integrates the body, mind and breathing, helping improve overall health and well-being. Yoga plays a significant role in the management of two of the most common lifestyle disorders today - hypertension and diabetes.

Yoga confers health benefits through its influence on the autonomic nervous system which regulates essential functions such as heart rate, blood pressure and stress responses. Modern lifestyles often lead to excessive sympathetic activity, commonly known as 'fight or flight' response. This can contribute to elevated blood pressure, increased heart rate and chronic stress.

Regular yoga practice, including asanas, pranayama and meditation, helps restore balance by enhancing parasympathetic or vagal activity. Improved vagal tone is associated with better heart rate variability, lower resting heart rate, improved vascular function and healthier blood pressure regulation. Guided breathing techniques further promote relaxation and support the body's natural mechanisms for maintaining cardiovascular health.

Yoga also offers major benefits for those living with diabetes. Improved muscle strength and flexibility enhance insulin sensitivity, allowing the body to use glucose more efficiently. Meditation, deep breathing and stress reduction techniques help lower the impact of stress hormones such as cortisol, which can otherwise worsen blood sugar control. They contribute to more stable glucose levels and improved metabolic health.

Incorporating yoga into daily life provides lasting benefits. By promoting stability in both blood pressure and blood glucose levels, yoga helps reduce long-term complications and supports healthier aging.

In a world filled with constant distractions, stress and endless to-do lists, yoga offers a powerful way to reconnect with yourself. More than just a form of exercise, it is the art of mindful living - of breathing right, living in the present and cultivating inner balance. It is a daily practice of inhaling positivity and exhaling stress.

One of yoga's greatest advantages is its accessibility. You do not need an expensive gym membership or a dedicated studio. All it takes is a quiet corner in your home, yoga mat, and a willingness to begin. At its core, yoga is the ultimate act of self-care and self-love.

Getting started

Beginning your yoga journey is easier than you might think. Invest in a comfortable, non-slip yoga mat that provides adequate cushioning and support. Wear breathable, flexible clothing that allows you to move freely and comfortably.

For beginners, a 15–20-minute introductory yoga video can serve as an excellent guide. Follow the instructor's demonstrations, focus on your breathing and perform the poses at your own pace. Consistency matters more than perfection.

Choosing the yoga style

While you have many styles, experts recommend starting with restorative yoga - a gentle practice designed to promote deep relaxation and mindfulness.

Restorative yoga emphasizes stillness rather than movement. You need to hold simple poses for extended periods while supported by props such as cushions or bolsters. This allows the body and mind to release tension and enter a state of calm.

Once you become comfortable with restorative yoga, you can progress to Hatha Yoga. Characterised by slow-paced stretches and controlled breathing, Hatha Yoga helps you build a strong foundation with proper alignment, posture and breath awareness.

Advancing your practice

As your flexibility, strength and confidence improve, gradually challenge yourself by holding poses for longer durations. Maintaining a posture for 10 deep breaths enhances both physical endurance and mental resilience significantly.

After the basics, many practitioners transition to Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga. This more dynamic style emphasises core strength, stamina and disciplined movement. The structured sequences help build overall body strength while improving focus and coordination.

The next step is flow-based yoga, where each of your poses seamlessly transition into another. In these sessions, movement is synchronised with breathing, creating a continuous and meditative experience that strengthens the body while calming the mind.

When professional guidance matters

Although yoga can be practiced independently, there are situations where expert supervision is highly beneficial.

During pregnancy, for example, one should work with a qualified yoga therapist who understands the physical changes that occur. Specially modified poses are required during each trimester to support the mother's well-being and protect the growing baby.

Similarly, individuals dealing with age-related concerns, chronic medical conditions or specific lifestyle challenges should consider practicing under the guidance of a certified instructor. Professional support prevents injuries, ensure proper technique, and make advanced poses safer and more effective.

Embrace the journey

Yoga is not about achieving the perfect pose - it is about cultivating awareness, balance and self-compassion. Whether you begin with a few minutes of restorative stretching or gradually progress to dynamic flow sequences, every practice brings you closer to a healthier and more mindful life.

So, roll out your mat, take a deep breath and begin. Your journey towards greater well-being starts with a single stretch.

Nutrition enhances your yoga practice

Clinical dietitian **Jahnavi Bhograj** underlines the role of digestion and meal timing in deriving optimum benefits

Signing up for yoga classes, many focus on improving flexibility, mastering postures and learning new breathing techniques. Yet, one factor that can significantly influence your yoga practice often goes unnoticed - digestion. Yoga is a holistic practice that connects the body and mind, and the way you nourish yourself plays an important role in how you experience its benefits.

Yoga has traditionally been practised on a light stomach. When the body is busy digesting a large meal, it has less energy available for movement, balance and concentration. A comfortable, lighter stomach makes yoga feel more effortless, allowing you to move freely, breathe deeply and stay present during practice. From a nutrition perspective, supporting digestion is one of the simplest ways to maximise the benefits of yoga.

Prioritise digestion the night before

A good yoga session often begins with the previous evening's meal. Go for a light, balanced dinner and allow a gap of at least two to three hours between dinner and bedtime. This gives your digestive system adequate time to work and you wake up feeling lighter and more energetic.

Practise mindful eating

Eating slowly, chewing food thoroughly and paying attention to hunger and fullness cues support digestion and nutrient absorption.

Mindful eating is a simple habit that complements the philosophy of yoga. If you need something before your yoga session, keep it simple and natural. A small banana, seasonal fruit or a handful of soaked nuts and seeds provide gentle, sustained energy without making you feel heavy. Highly processed foods, sugary snacks and refined bakery products are best avoided.

Ease into your first meal after yoga

After an intense yoga session, avoid rushing into a large meal. Starting with fresh fruit gently replenishes natural sugars and hydration. After a short interval, have a balanced meal containing wholesome carbohydrates, protein and healthy fats to support sustained energy through the day.

Beetle Bailey

ZERO IS HAVING A TOUGH TIME WITH THE TEST
1/30
HE'S GOING TO END UP WITH A BALD SPOT
THESE ARE REAL HEAD-SCRATCHERS
GREG+MORT WALKER
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

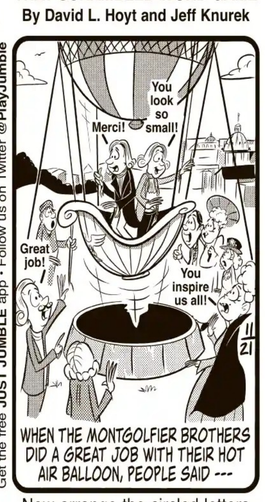
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PAPYL

USISE

SKYCOT

SEREMU


You look so small!
Merci!
Great job!
You inspire us all!
WHEN THE MONTGOLFIER BROTHERS DID A GREAT JOB WITH THEIR HOT AIR BALLOON, PEOPLE SAID ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) ( ) ( )

Answers: When the Montgolfier brothers did a great job with their hot air balloon, people said — KEEP IT UP
APPLY ISSUE STOCKY RESUME

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HITORI-151

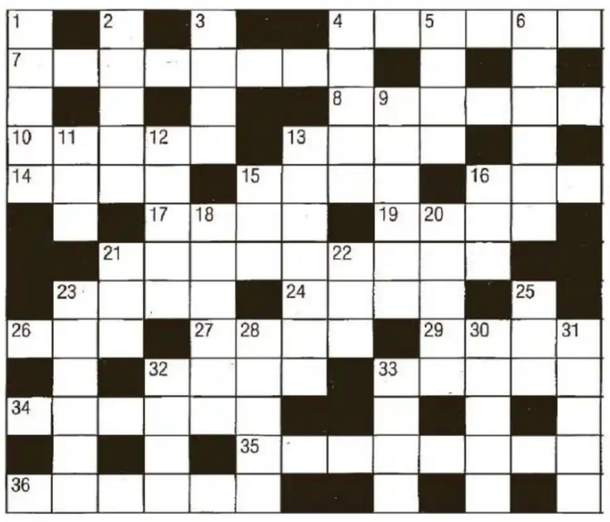
5	8	8	1	4	4	6	5
8	8	4	2	7	4	1	3
2	3	1	4	6	1	8	3
5	2	6	8	8	3	8	4
7	4	4	3	1	6	5	8
4	4	3	6	4	8	7	2
4	6	5	4	2	1	4	1
6	1	4	5	3	7	2	4

SOLUTION for HITORI-151

■	2	7	3	5	■	1	6
1	4	■	2	■	5	6	■
2	7	8	■	6	3	■	4
8	■	5	1	6	3	4	7
4	■	3	■	8	6	2	■
■	8	1	6	4	■	3	2
3	1	■	7	2	4	8	■
■	6	4	■	1	■	8	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 152



EASY

ACROSS
4 Craven (6)
7 A few (3,2,3)
8 Brass instrument (6)
10 Expect (5)
13 Cutlery item (4)
14 Tale (4)
15 Jump (4)
16 Annoy (3)
17 Continent (4)
19 Cure (4)
21 Amuse (9)
23 Gratis (4)
24 Money reserve (4)
26 Hill (3)
27 Adjoin (4)
29 Cupid (4)
32 Object of worship (4)
33 English river (5)
34 Undeveloped offspring (6)
35 Reticent (8)
36 Soak (6)

DOWN
1 Raid (5)
2 Tree (5)
3 Gravel (4)
4 Bedtime drink (5)
5 Labour (4)
6 Regretful (6)
9 Child without parents (6)
11 Wit (3)
12 Senseless (5)
13 Afraid (7)
15 Falsehood (3)
16 Forbid (3)
18 Stable (6)
20 Sea duck (5)
21 Make a mistake (3)
22 Sound of disapproval (3)
23 Erstwhile (6)
25 Unit of weight (3)
28 A stall (5)
30 Happen again (5)
31 Stench (5)
32 Golf club (4)
33 Small branch (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 When a team's out for a bit of training, it means progress (6)
7 Garment for a maiden maybe? (8)
8 View of a spectacle? (6)
10 Continental in the biggest possible way (5)
13 It's at the end of the street that one finds little birds (4)
14 If its end became soft, would it go limp? (4)
15 Be about to get ahead with something in person (4)
16 Little creature a humble rustic could have with peas (3)
17 Grouse, yes, but it doesn't taste the same (4)
19 Furnished for a certain period, religiously (4)
21 Pay out generously, albeit sadly (9)
23 Names dutifully listed (4)
24 A superior letter to the Standard, from Jacob's brother (4)
26 Like Jack Sprat's wife, presumably? (3)
27 Could it grow in the middle of the street? (4)
29 Many are on the way in a foreign coaster (4)
32 Only small parts of the course of a river (4)
33 Feast on duck with a vegetable (5)
34 In certain parts, this is out of the way (6)
35 If you want something to eat, see the next page (8)
36 Good fresh pears should be sweet and juicy (6)

DOWN
1 Many have spoken of such a victory (5)
2 Considered overall, it's tough stuff (5)
3 Read The Last of the Mohicans possibly (4)
4 Bad mark for a boy who gets out of line (5)
5 Hits with a rasp, maybe (4)
6 Not exactly recent, but still acceptable (6)
9 Suitable forename for a saintly female? (6)
11 A little drink is wrong for a political leader (3)
12 The good man always has half a bottle for a sailor (5)
13 Sweets that go bad when put in water (7)
15 Live at Bourne End, as a worker (3)
16 Some may come from Germany (3)
18 Happy to be led astray about a blend of tea (6)
20 Avoid giving the Spanish due treatment (5)
21 She makes a point (3)
22 Work for some cause (3)
23 Preferably the artist on the right (6)
25 500 ahead, let's assume (3)
28 In forests, one finds "lodges" (5)
30 Do this to about a hundred and you have about fifty (5)
31 It can make you look frowning or wry, somehow (5)
32 Go gaily on an excursion (4)
33 Crooked piece of out-of-the-way gambling (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 152

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Coward 7, One or two 8, Cornet 10, Await 13, Fork 14, Yarn 15, Leap 16, Bug 17, Asia 19, Heal 21, Entertain 23, Free 24, Fund 26, Tor 27, Abut 29, Eros 32, Idol 33, Trent 34, Embryo 35, Tactitum 36, Drench.
DOWN: 1, Foray 2, Cedar 3, Grit 4, Cocoa 5, Work 6, Rueful 9, Orphan 11, Wag 12, Inane 13, Fearful 15, Lie 16, Ban 18, Steady 20, Elder 21, Err 22, Tut 23, Former 25, Ton 28, Booth 30, Recur 31, Stink 32, Iron 33, Twig.

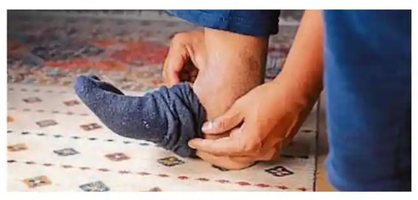
CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, S-tr-ide 7, Overcoat 8, Aspect 10, Asian 13, T-it's 14, Limb 15, B-on-e 16, Ant 17, Beef 19, Lent 21, Dole-fully 23, Rota 24, ES-a-U 26, Fat 27, Tree 29, D-how 32, Tees 33, Bean-O 34, Thi-Rd.-s 35, Turn-over 36, G-rapes.
DOWN: 1, M-oral 2, Denim 3, Scan 4, sta-I-n 5, Raps 6, Decent 9, St.-Ella 11, Si-p 12, AB-bot 13, T-off-ees 15, Be-e 16, Any 18, El-ate-d 20, El-ude 21, Dot 22, Use 23, RA-the-R 25, D-on 28, Rests 30, Ha-L-ve 31, Worry 32, Trip 33, Be-N-t.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd.
FASHION

A diet rich in protein, iron, zinc and vitamins supports healthy and strong nail growth

EAT RIGHT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE



KEEP SOCKS DRY

If you are prone to getting wet in the rains often, it is advisable to carry a spare pair of socks along to change into when your feet get drenched. Wet socks worn for long increase the risk of skin infections and fungus beneath the toenails.

USE BREATHABLE FOOTWEAR

Dry feet and toes go a long way in preventing fungal infections during the rainy season. Breathable footwear helps as your feet dry sooner with them. Shoes that are completely closed trap moisture and create an ideal environment for fungal growth.

Monsoon Care

Seasonal Blues

The monsoon season brings higher humidity, dampness, and frequent exposure to water if you are outdoors for long spells. The grey and wet rainy days can lead to fungal infections and brittle nails. This season calls for a more detailed nail care routine. You don't want the rains to spoil your nail art.

Short's better

Well-clipped nails are ideal through this season. Clipped nails don't accumulate as much moisture and grime as long ones. The risk of fungal infection is lower with clipped nails. Clip and file nails even as they grow noticeably to keep the monsoon pains away.

MOISTURISE DAILY

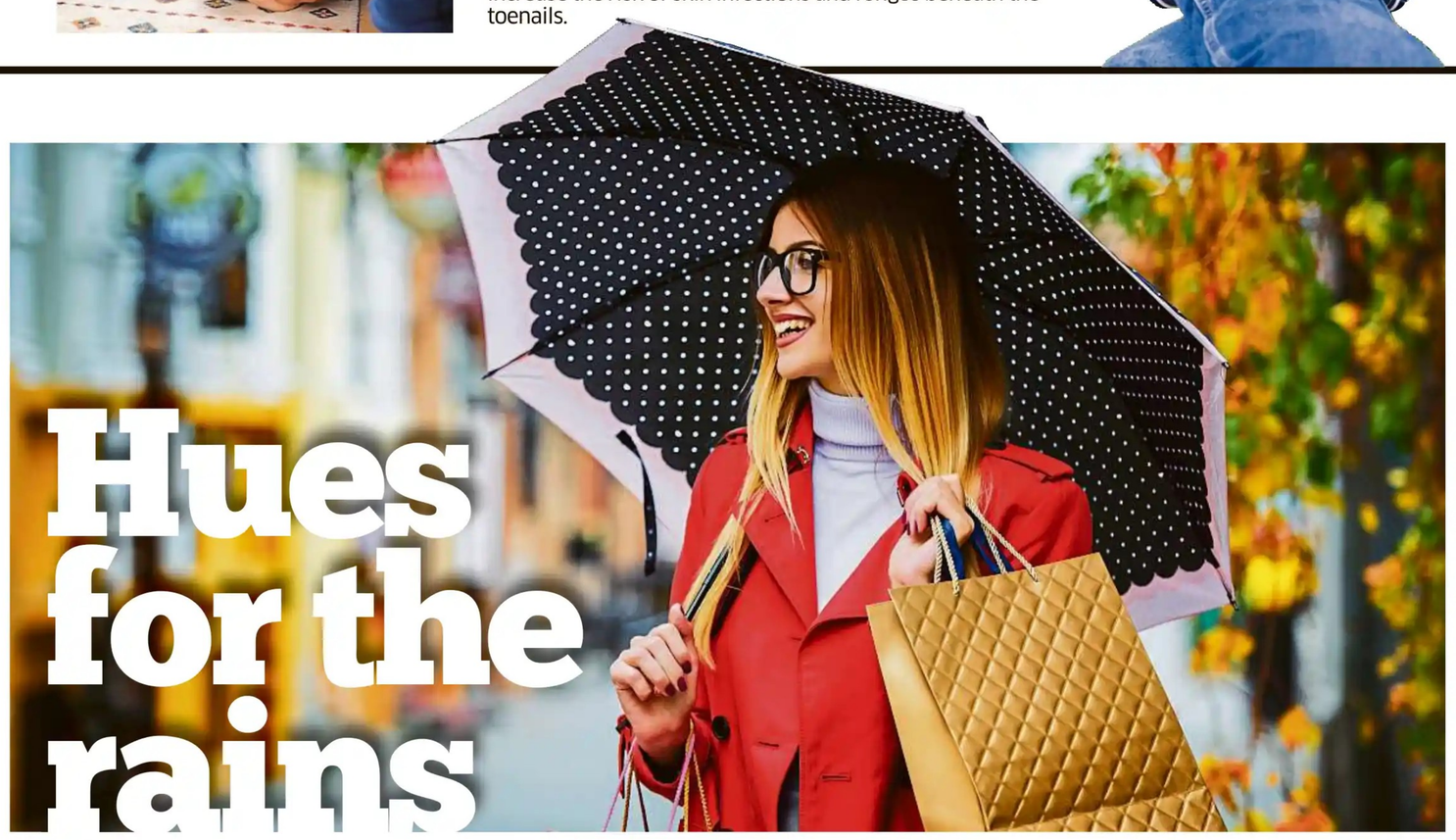
The constant exposure to dampness on many days and the frequent drying can weaken your nails. After the hot summer months, many tend to do away with moisturisers believing the rainy days' dampness is naturally moisturising. This isn't so. Apply a hand cream or cuticle oil daily to keep your nails strong and healthy.

LIMIT EXPOSURE

Try to avoid exposure to water as far as possible, especially if you are prone to getting wet in the rains. For example, you can use gloves while washing dishes, gardening or indulging in any household chore that involves exposure to water. This mitigates risk of fungal infections and safeguards your nails from turning soft and fragile.

Clean tools

Disinfect your nail clipper, file and other nailcare tools before use. Never share your equipment with others or borrow someone else's during this season. Shared tools are believed to spread fungal and bacterial infections. If you are getting manicure and pedicure done, ensure the equipment being used is sterile.



Hues for the rains

A burst of colour is an antidote to a grey monsoon day. **Jayanthi Madhukar** has some ideas to help you get your ensemble to perk your mood up

Fashion Notes

If the forecast is rainy and gloomy weather, that's your cue to brighten the day up with colour. Monsoon fashion need not be confined to practical rainwear and muted colours. In fact, grey, overcast skies can provide the best backdrop for vibrant accessories which will brighten up your day. There is also something psychologically uplifting about carrying a bright accessory on a dreary day. While the weather may dictate the forecast, your choice of colour can influence your mood. So, let's look at accessories for monsoon days.

Under the shade

When everywhere there's the formal black umbrellas floating around, make yours different. Transparent umbrellas are fashionable alternatives, offering shelter without visually overwhelming an outfit. Their clear canopies allow your clothes and accessories to be the focus. They are practical, too, providing better visibility in crowded streets, helping you navigate puddles and slippery pavements with greater ease.

For those who prefer compact styles that fit neatly into a handbag, consider umbrellas in shades such as cobalt blue, sunshine yellow, emerald green or coral. Steer clear of fussy prints and busy patterns because a solid block of colour often makes a stronger statement. Against a backdrop of grey skies and rain-soaked streets, a brightly coloured umbrella functions almost like an accessory in its own right, injecting personality into an otherwise dull, utilitarian item.

Handy hints...

- Carrying a bright accessory on a dull, rainy day helps get your mood up
- A transparent umbrella lets your ensemble do its job while giving you a better view
- A handbag in a bold hue sets the tone for your outfit
- Bright, chunky jewellery trend through this season
- Stacking bangles in bright colours is a sure winner
- Bring a sense of fun to your attire with footwear
- Quick-drying and easy-to-maintain are the passcodes for this season

Colour in hand

Handbags are often accessories that set the tone for an entire outfit. White shirts, beige trousers, classic denim or monochromatic dresses acquire a fresh energy when paired with a bold accessory.

During the monsoon, when wardrobes tend to lean towards functional attire and weather-friendly fabrics, a brightly-coloured bag can provide a welcome dose of cheer.

Think of shades that feel especially vibrant against cloudy skies and rain-darkened streets. A colourful handbag, tote or backpack can instantly enliven an otherwise understated ensemble.

A vivid handbag signals confidence and cheerfulness, serving as a small, but deliberate act of colour therapy.

Statement jewellery

The season calls for bright, chunky jewellery, though moderation is key. A single statement piece in acrylic, resin or enamel can provide just the right pop of colour against rain-washed neutrals and muted skies. Think over-sized cocktail rings, geometric earrings, colourful bangles or sculptural cuffs that instantly elevate a simple outfit. If bold jewellery feels excessive, swap it for a chunky necklace or a striking beaded neckpiece that becomes the focal point.

Monsoon fashion is also the perfect excuse to experiment with playful colours like cobalt blue, tangerine, fuchsia and lime green, all of which work particularly well against the season's greys and greens.

On your feet

Monsoon footwear should bring a sense of fun to dressing. Shoes offer an easy way to embrace colour, experiment with trends and add personality into everyday outfits. A striking pair can transform even the simplest rainy-day ensemble into a look that feels deliberate, polished and seasonally appropriate. Jelly sandals and footwear with translucent straps and glossy finishes are great for the season and easy to maintain. Also, look for footwear with anti-skid soles that keep you safe.

Less is **more**

Shilpi Madan has some skin and haircare tips for the monsoon season

As the monsoon sets in, so does the challenge of keeping your hair frizz-free and your skin stickiness-free with the make-up intact. Here are quick ways to look cool and feel fabulous.

Tress TLC

Choose lightweight products and skip the leave-in conditioner to prevent product build-up. This lets the follicles breathe with the dense humidity. Add a UV bloc powered hair serum to save your mane from a spot of scary sun damage that might leave it scraggly.

Go for multi-taskers

Use a lip liner that works beautifully as lip colour when you fill in. Follow up with lip gloss. Make way for cosmetics with inbuilt SPF. Pick a spray option in sunscreen for easier and quicker rebooting of sun protection. A foamy face cleanser works better during the monsoon.

Do it right

Iced glow: Working ice globes on your face first thing in the morning helps boost the glow on your skin. Coconut water is an elixir. Tank up with the natural electrolyte to stay hydrated and sport fabulous skin elasticity and moisture quotient.

Coco cool: You can also splash cool coconut water on your face before you bring on the serum, moisturiser, sunscreen and primer.

Gel jells: Take to gel formats and water-based creams – avoid dense formulations. They tend to clog up the pores.

Brush care: Wash and dry make-up brushes before use. Maintain hygiene in make-up tools to prevent fungal and bacterial infections.

Spray on Replace roll-on fragrances with spray formats.

Avoid layering: Stick to a minimal concealer application and skip the use of foundation as it adds to the layers and sometimes lends a cakey look.

Powder up: A dusting of translucent powder at the end helps your make-up stay longer. Make the hair stay off your face in a bun or ponytail till you arrive at the venue to avoid limp locks.

Flip your mane over and back for a quick glam hair rise.

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'Music is a lifelong companion...'

Music is a powerful source of balance and self-expression. **Dr Vishwanath Prasad H**, Founder-Chairman, Rhythms Academy of Fine Arts, explains how you can dip into its immense goodness, in this chat with **B S Manu Rao**

What can music do for people stressed and beaten in the race to the top?

In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, people are more digitally connected than ever before. Stress, anxiety and emotional fatigue continue to affect many, particularly children and young adults. In such times, music serves as a powerful source of balance, self-expression and meaningful human connection.

How does music bring society together?

While technology connects devices, music connects hearts. With more than three decades dedicated to music education and having published over 128 books on music and related subjects, I have had the privilege of witnessing the transformative power of music across generations. Its influence extends beyond performance and learning, bringing individuals, families and communities together. As a universal language, it transcends cultural, religious, national and linguistic boundaries, fostering mutual understanding, strengthening human connections and creating meaningful shared experiences.

Across continents and generations, it preserves traditions, narrates stories and reflects the aspirations of societies. From ancient folk expressions to contemporary compositions, each form carries a unique character, offering a glimpse into the heritage and imagination of the people who created it.

Is a dose of music good for one's health and well-being too?

Beyond its artistic value, music has been increasingly recognised for its therapeutic and developmental benefits. Research has shown that structured musical engagement can support neurological development, improve motor skills, enhance coordination, aid speech and language development, and contribute to cognitive growth. It is also being used in healthcare and rehabilitation settings to support recovery, improve quality of life and complement medical treatment.

One of the most memorable experiences in my journey was observing the impact of music on premature infants at a hospital. It was remarkable how even these tiny infants responded positively. Their reactions demonstrated the profound influence that sound and rhythm can have on the human mind and body, even at the earliest stages of life.

How does an aspirant choose a musical instrument?

Choosing a musical course should be based on individual interest, aptitude and personality. Whether it is vocal music, melodic instruments or rhythm instruments, the right choice is one that sparks curiosity and sustains enthusiasm.

However, not everyone needs to become a musician. Everyone can benefit from becoming a good listener too. Regular exposure to quality music, even for six months, can deepen your appreciation of melody, rhythm and expression. The good news is that researchers and software developers are creating free digital tools and applications for learners worldwide. Music is a science, and it is inspiring to see science giving back to music.

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DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. VARIETY

No matter which beverage you choose, avoid sweetening it with sugar. It will take away much of the value your drink confers

SIP RIGHT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

FRESH AND WARM

It's time to give the summer coolers a break. Warm beverages are advisable this season. Ensure the beverages you consume regularly are freshly-brewed and haven't been sitting in the refrigerator for a long time, especially in humid weather conditions. Pick seasonal veggies for soups.

STAY HYDRATED

Many people cut the amount of water they drink once the summer changes into the cooler monsoon months. Staying hydrated is still as important. Try warm water. It is easier to drink warm water through the cooler days and get the hydration you need.

Smart **Sip**

Drink Warm

This is the season to pick some warm beverages that keep you hydrated, comfort you and also boost your immunity. Herbs and spices go a long way in adding to your immune function. Including them in your daily beverages helps in fighting infections common during the monsoon months.

GINGER TEA

This is a great morning drink in this season. Ginger adds warmth and also has anti-inflammatory properties. All you need to do is boil some pieces of ginger in water and infuse it into your regular tea. A daily ginger tea drink will boost your immunity over time.

GOLDEN MILK

This is a great way to boost immunity, especially in the monsoon season. Add a pinch of black pepper and quarter spoon of organic turmeric to a cup of hot milk. The black pepper helps your body absorb curcumin the active compound in turmeric. It is rich in anti-oxidants.

Lemon and Honey

A glass of warm water with lemon and honey is a good way to start your day. Lemon gives you the Vitamin C boost you need to fight off the sniffles common this season. Honey soothes a sore throat. Ensure the water is cool enough for you to sip before adding lemon to it.

VEGGIE SOUP

This is an all-time favourite through all seasons. The veggies give you the nutrition you need. The soup digests easily and can be consumed anytime of the day. It is also a great way to curb hunger pangs between meals. Always use fresh vegetables.

Does rainwater harm your skin?

Monsoon **Care**

Monsoon-related skin concerns are preventable with some simple measures. Dermatologist **Dr Mukta Sachdev** has some advice

The onset of the monsoon is welcomed as a respite from the intense summer heat. While occasional exposure to rain is unlikely to harm healthy skin, prolonged contact with rainwater and the humid conditions that accompany the rainy season can contribute to a variety of dermatological concerns.

A common misconception is that rainwater is naturally pure. In reality, rainwater absorbs airborne pollutants, particulate matter, dust and environmental contaminants as it passes through the atmosphere. In urban and industrial areas, the first showers of the season may contain higher concentrations of these impurities. Although brief exposure is generally harmless, individuals with sensitive skin, eczema, rosacea or pre-existing skin disorders may experience irritation or worsening of symptoms.

The greater challenge during the monsoon, however, is not the rainwater itself but the persistently humid environment it creates. Excess moisture on the skin can compromise the skin barrier and promote the growth of fungi, bacteria and other microorganisms. Consequently, dermatologists frequently observe an increase in skin infections during this period.

Common monsoon-related skin concerns include:

- Fungal infections affecting the feet, groin, underarms and skin folds
- Acne flare-ups due to increased humidity and sebum production
- Heat rash and friction-related skin irritation
- Exacerbation of eczema and sensitive skin conditions
- Bacterial infections in areas of persistent moisture or skin breakdown

Remaining in wet clothing for prolonged periods increases the risk of irritation and infection. Damp fabrics create a warm, occlusive environment that encourages microbial growth while weakening the skin's natural protective barrier.

Fortunately, most monsoon-related skin problems are preventable with appropriate skincare measures.

Preventive skincare routine for the season:

Cleanse promptly after rain exposure: If you get drenched in the rain, rinse the skin with clean water and use a mild cleanser to remove pollutants, dirt and microorganisms that may have accumulated on the skin's surface.

Keep your skin dry: Thoroughly dry all areas that are prone to moisture retention - the spaces between the toes, groin, underarms and all skin folds. This simple step reduces the risk of fungal infections significantly.

Do not neglect moisturisation: Many discontinue the use of moisturisers during humid weather. However, maintaining your skin barrier intact is important. Lightweight, non-comedogenic moisturisers help prevent dryness, irritation and barrier dysfunction.

Change wet clothing promptly: Avoid remaining in damp clothes, socks or footwear for extended periods. Breathable cotton fabrics are preferable during the rainy season.

Protect acne-prone skin: Individuals prone to acne should use non-oily skincare products and cleanse excess sweat and sebum regularly to minimise pore blockage.

Continue daily protection from sun: Ultraviolet radiation penetrates cloud cover. Broad-spectrum sunscreen therefore is essential even on overcast or rainy days.

Rainwater itself is rarely a direct cause of skin disease. However, prolonged dampness, increased humidity and exposure to environmental pollutants can contribute to irritation, infections and flare-ups of pre-existing skin conditions.

A simple approach - prompt cleansing, thorough drying, appropriate moisturisation and good personal hygiene - can reduce monsoon-related skin problems significantly and help maintain healthy skin throughout the season.

International Day of Yoga - June 21

'Yoga has given me confidence and joy...'

A few years ago, my posture was gradually tilting to one side. Despite various treatments, the problem persisted. Finally, I decided to try yoga. Within a year, I felt a remarkable improvement in my balance and posture. Today, I am the oldest student in my yoga class, and the practice has given me not just strength but also confidence and joy.
Suma Chandekar, Senior citizen

I was finding it hard to concentrate on my studies and I spent far too much time on gadgets. Since my school had yoga classes, my trainer suggested that I start practising simple breathing exercises and Surya Namaskar every morning. Within a few months, I could focus much better in class and while studying. I also felt more energetic through the day.
Rohan Kanungo, School student

My hectic work schedule had made stress a constant companion. Frequent headaches, poor sleep, irritability and snapping at people had become a part of my life. I joined an online yoga class and began practising relaxation techniques and simple asanas. Within a few weeks, I was sleeping better, feeling calmer and handling situations with greater emotional balance.
Anita Mordani, Merchandise manager

For over a decade, I had lower back pain that began after I lifted some heavy objects. It aggravated with my constant sitting in office. Some people even advised surgery which scared me. I began practicing yoga and I have been pain-free for years now, and lead an active life.
Beena Awadhesh, Accountant

Going the extra mile for DAD

June 21 Father's Day

Aiden (left) and Eva (centre) with their father Aldrin D'Souza.

We will be travelling to Mumbai to watch the musical 'Cats' with our dad. One of us is making a gift, while the other has picked out a T-shirt for him. We've also written heartfelt messages to tell him how much we love and appreciate him, and to thank him for being there always for us.
Eva and Aiden D'Souza

Puri Gangadhar (right) with her father Gangadhar L.

Since I was 15, I've been creating a '15 reasons I love you' memory jar for my father. It contains notes about special memories, lessons my dad has taught me and things I appreciate about him. Also, I'm putting together a 'Dad through the years' scrapbook with some of our favourite moments together. I plan to cook breakfast for him on Father's Day with a handwritten note and spend the day celebrating our bond and memories we share.
Puri Gangadhar
Student

My father lives in the United States and I want to make sure he knows how special he is. No matter the distance, his love, guidance and support have always been a constant in my life. Since I can't celebrate this Father's Day with him in person, I've arranged for his favourite banana walnut cake and drink to be delivered to him.
Anya Rao
Student

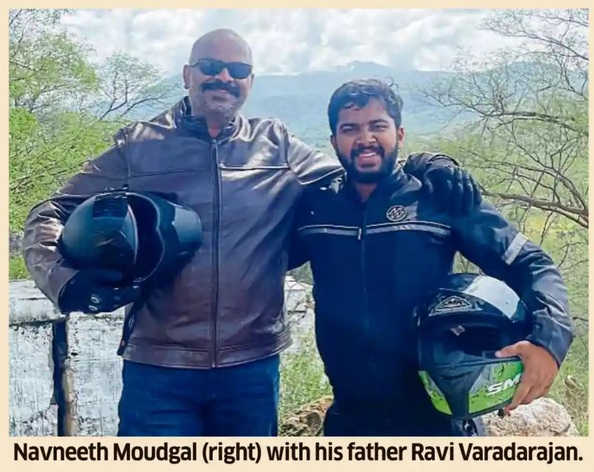
Anya Rao with her father Sunil Rao

Shubh Parekh (left) and Shaurya Parekh (right) with their dad Bharath Parekh

We are planning a surprise for our father. We are leaving some of his favourite chocolates, a candid photograph of him that he doesn't know we captured and a heartfelt letter in his car. It's a simple gesture, but one filled with love, gratitude and appreciation for all the sacrifices, support and countless memories he has given us over the years.
Shubh Parekh
Entrepreneur
Shaurya Parekh
Student

I'll be in Mangaluru shooting a music video, but I wanted to do something special for my father. My mother told me he had been thinking about buying a pair of headphones. I've ordered a set as a surprise. It's a small way of showing my appreciation for all the love and support he has given me over the years.
Ashwin Mandoth
Musician

Ashwin Mandoth (left) with his father Prakash Mandoth .



Navneeth Moudgal (right) with his father Ravi Varadarajan.

Some of my fondest childhood memories are sitting on the fuel tank of my father's bike and listening to his stories about his beloved Yamaha RX135. It's these stories that sparked my love for motorcycles and played a big role in shaping my passion for riding. To honour that bond and the passion he inspired in me, we've decided to celebrate Father's Day with a 200-km bike ride from Bengaluru to Krishnagiri.
Navneeth Moudgal
Media professional

COMPILED BY DEEPA NATARAJAN LOBO